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Champion

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Schools on shortlist for top awards

Workmates to pose for third charity calendar

Fire service warning after hoax call claiming children were trapped in house

LANCASHIRE Fire and Rescue Service has issued a warning after a hoax call at the weekend which they say put "lives in danger".

Two fire crews from Skelmersdale and one from Wigan responded to a call at 8.31am on Sunday (April 30) saying that there were children trapped in a home in Daniels Lane, Digmoor.

The caller urged the emergency services to get them out.

However, when the firefighters arrived at the scene, they found out that the call was a hoax and had been made maliciously.

Following the incident a spokesman for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service said: "Malicious calls can put lives in danger. It can take away essential resources at a crucial time.

"Some years ago in Blackpool a five-year-old boy died in a house fire. The fire engine nearest to him had been called away on a hoax call. "Back-up crews were there quickly but precious seconds were lost and the little boy subsequently died in hospital.

"When we say it can have disastrous consequences, it clearly is not empty rhetoric, it actually happens.

"The relatives of whoever makes the hoax call could be involved in an incident, such as a car crash or a fire, and be next in line to need the help of the fire service. We do not understand why someone would do this. It does not make sense. It is criminal behaviour, mindless and very worrying.

"The police have been notified and we will do what is possible to track the call and the culprits."

Daniels Lane, Skelmersdale - hoax caller claimed children were trapped in a burning house there

KAI'S 'GRAND' GESTURE TO THANK SCHOOL

Report by **Henry James**

A YOUNGSTER with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has raised more than £1,000 with a sponsored walk up the highest mountain in Wales.

Kai Singleton from Old Skelmersdale was joined by parents Natalie and Ian on the walk up Mount Snowdown in aid of Kingsbury Primary.

The 11-year-old, who will be going on to secondary school after the summer term, decided to tackle the walk to thank staff at the school in School Lane, Skelmersdale for all they have done for him and his family.

It took the family trio around four hours to complete the 3,560-foot climb and another three to get back down again.

A proud Natalie and David said: "Kai has autism and ADHD and we have had a really tough journey finding a school that really understood him and his needs.

Kai at the top of Snowdon with dad and mum

"In the end we enrolled Kai in Kingsbury School, which is for children with additional needs. It was a tough choice to make but the right one.

"The school has pulled out all the stops and has helped Kai to achieve so much, from reading and learning to write, to helping him understand how to make friends. So before he starts his new journey in September into high school, Kai and ourselves wanted to say thank-you by trying to raise £1,000 to give the school something back, to help fund a light room and other essential equipment."

Jayne Wood, children's services manager at Kingsbury school, said: "It was a tremendous effort by Kai to climb Mount Snowdon and it was all his own idea. He had been planning it for about six months.

"It was the first climb that he had done and I don't think he and his parents had done much training for it.

"We have never had a student do this before and the staff were quite emotional that someone would do this.

"He said it was something like minus one degree at the top, but at least they did not have any rain which made a difference.

"After the trek though his legs were aching and he was allowed to give PE a miss on the Monday."

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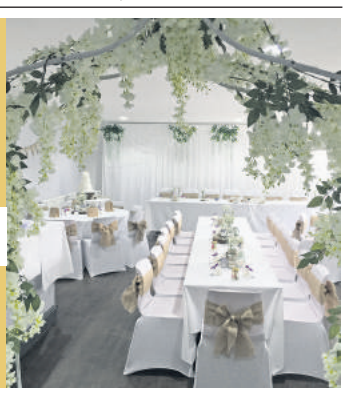

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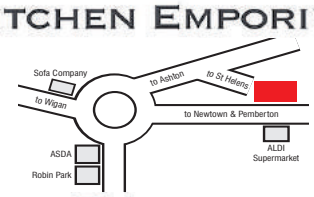

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Countdown to county council poll

VOTERS go to the polls tomorrow (Thursday, May 4) in the Lancashire County Council elections with all 84 seats on the authority being contested, including eight in West Lancashire.

The county council provides the majority of local government services in Lancashire including education, fostering and adoption, health and social care, cultural services, libraries and archives, registering births, deaths and marriages, recycling and highways and transport.

Jo Turton, chief executive of the county council, said: "This is an important time to have your say on the services that we provide, which can affect the lives of everyone in Lancashire.

"Our elections are only held every four years, so your vote helps to choose the people who will take important decisions about council services in the coming years."

Seats and candidates in West Lancashire are as follows:

Burscough and Rufford ward
Cynthia Dereli (Labour);
Eddie Pope (Conservative).

Ormskirk ward
Nikki Hennessy (Labour and Co-operative party);
Gordon Paul Johnson (Our West Lancashire);
Gaynor Pickering (The Green Party);
David Alexander Westley (Con).

The Lancashire County Council elections are taking place tomorrow (Thursday, May 4)

Skelmersdale Central
Terence Aldridge (Lab);
Samuel Peter Currie (Con).

Skelmersdale East
John Fillis (Lab);
George Ernest Pratt (Con).

Skelmersdale West
Julie Patricia Gibson (Lab and Co-operative);
William Mason Rowan Gilmour (Green)
Ruth Melling (Con).

West Lancashire East
Ian Davis (OWL);
Gareth Dowling (Lab)
Heather Doyle (Green);
Paul Vincent Greenall (Con);
John Stewart Simpson Stewart (UK Independence Party).

West Lancashire North
Malcolm Robert Barron (Con);
Jeffrey Robert James Christie (Liberal Democrat Focus Team);
Andy Pritchard (Lab).

West Lancashire West
Maureen Kathleen Patricia Mills (Lab);
David Michael O'Toole (Con).

You can find out more about the elections on the county council's website, lancashire.gov.uk/elections, where you can find details for your candidates, get information about the elections, and register to receive results once the votes have been counted.

The votes will be counted on Friday (May 5).

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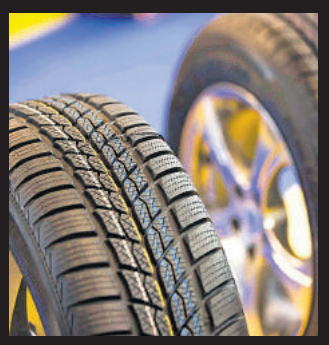

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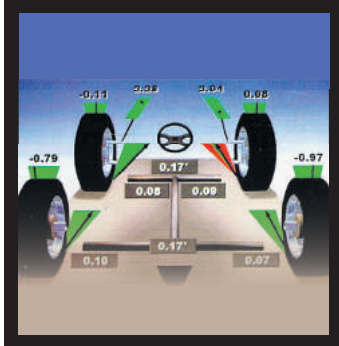

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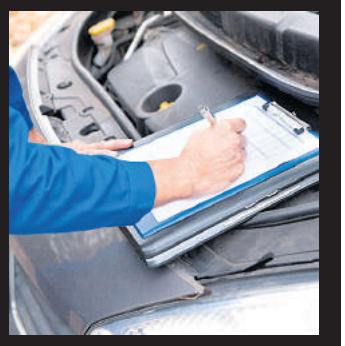

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Doreen Roughley

Concern grows for missing pensioner

LANCASHIRE Police are becoming increasingly concerned for the wellbeing of a pensioner who has been missing from home for four days.

Doreen Roughley, 69, from Skelmersdale was last seen at around 6.35am on Friday (April 28) leaving her address in Beechwood Court.

She hasn't returned since.

Sergeant Bernie Coburn from Skelmersdale Police, said: "No one has seen or heard from Doreen since this last sighting and so we are getting more worried for her welfare.

"She is in receipt of regular medication which we know she doesn't have in her possession and so she could appear to be agitated.

"We need to find her and so I am asking anyone who might have seen her or knows where she is to call us immediately."

Doreen is described as white, of slim build with mousey-brown, shoulder-length hair.

She was last seen wearing a beige mac which was too big, flowery leggings, a burgundy shoulder bag and a white trainer on her right foot and a slipper on her left foot.

Anyone with information can call the police on 101 quoting log number LC-20170428-0752.

Foodbank handed out 1,600 emergency supplies in last year

Report by **Henry James**

Skelmersdale Foodbank volunteers Ken Ashcroft, John Sneed and Milly Casey

SKELMERSDALE Foodbank handed out more than 1,600 three-day emergency food supplies to local people - including 683 to children - during the financial year 2016-17.

And although this is a reduction of more than 300 on the 2015-16 figure of 1,929, officials at the operation at the Ecumencial Centre in Northway believe this could be as a result of reduced referrals brought about by charities being forced to cut services or close.

The three main reasons cited for foodbank referral were benefit delay, benefit changes and low income.

Over the last year, local people donated almost 19 tonnes of food to the the foodbank, and more than 60 volunteered. Local schools, businesses and faith groups also provided vital support.

Meanwhile volunteers at Skelmersdale Foodbank share the concerns of other Trussell Trust foodbanks in Universal Credit roll-out areas about the adverse effects the new system can have on people.

They believe the six weeks-plus waiting period for a first payment can contribute to debt, mental health issues and rent arrears. And they say the effects of these can last even after people receive their Universal Credit payments, as bills and debts pile up.

As well as providing emergency food, the foodbank provides essentials like nappies and sanitary products to families who are struggling, as well as signposting them to other services in the local area.

Mark Bainbridge from Skelmersdale Foodbank said: "While we are seeing a decrease in the number of emergency food supplies we provide, we are concerned that some agencies and charities who would normally refer people to us have been unable to do so because funding reductions have caused their services to be squeezed or closed.

"We are looking into this further, and are dedicated to ensuring that anyone in the community who hits a crisis is able to access our support.

"Anybody could find themselves in need of the foodbank. Every week people are referred to us after being hit by something unavoidable - such as illness, a delay in a benefit payment or an unexpected bill.

"It really is only with the community's support that we're able to provide vital emergency help when it matters most, and we hope that one day there will be no need for us in Skelmersdale.

"But until that day comes, we will continue to offer the best possible service to help local people facing a crisis.

"I'd like to thank everyone in Skelmersdale and the surrounding district who already donates time, food and money to help local people - and if you're not already involved, we'd love to hear from you!"

Despite the generous donations of food, there are many 'hidden' costs incurred in running the foodbank, including warehouse space to sort and stock donated food, and other overheads like insurance.

And the foodbank would warmly welcome any new offers of help with funding. For more information go to website www.skelmersdale.foodbank.org.uk.

Prime Minister, Theresa May, chats to members of the public in Aughton

Prime Minister goes walkabout in West Lancs!

A NUMBER of residents in West Lancashire had a surprise visitor on Bank Holiday Monday (May 1) - the Prime Minister!

Theresa May went 'door knocking' in Aughton in support of the Conservative candidate for the borough in the forthcoming General Election, Sam Currie.

However, she had to break off when a number of residents came out of their homes to talk to her on the street.

During her flying visit Mrs May also met up with County Councillor David Westley who is seeking election for the new Ormskirk division of Lancashire County Council.

Labour has held the West Lancs parliamentary seat since 1992, while current MP, Rosie Cooper has held the role for the last 12 years.

Following her visit to Aughton the Prime Minster also stopped off to talk to residents in Mawdesley.

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400

Pub's charity weekend hailed a success

A CHARITY weekend at The Stanley Pub in Up Holland in aid of Twinkle House has been hailed a bumper success.

The event was organised by licensees Carl and Janice Buck, along with pub regulars including father and daughter Phil and Leah Wallis.

They decided to support the Skemersdale-based charity after learning about how much they do for the community in providing free tailored support for children and young people, and facilities for anyone to access to help improve their health and wellness.

Although organisers are still counting up how much was raised, Janice said: "The event went very well and it was busier than last year. I think the weather helped.

"The highlight was the local bands playing and they donated their time and energy for nothing.

"The idea is to always support local charities. Last year we helped West Lancashire Community High School and this year we chose Twinkle House.

"We had started organising the event in January and local businesses, such as the Co-op donated raffle prizes. We also want to thank local people for their support.

"We are planning on holding another event next year."

Activities included Juke Box Friday on Friday, April 28; a sponsored walk at Derwentwater in the Lake District on Saturday, April 29, followed by Amy Collins live at the pub at 9pm; and on Sunday, April 30 there was 'Our Big Gig' where 16 local bands and artists played throughout the day, and there was also a BBQ and raffle.

The event finished on Monday, May 1 with an indoor car boot sale.

Jill Boardman from Twinkle House said: "The pub raised funds to help the charity as it does not receive any government funding.

"Twinkle House desperately needs the support of its local community to enable the centre to remain open and able to support children with a variety of issues. If you can help, get in touch with Twinkle House via www.twinklehouse.co.uk."

Organisers Janice, Steven, Carl and Leah with some of the raffle prizes donated for The Stanley pub's Our Big Gig charity day in support of Twinkle House

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Primary pair shortlisted for prestigious educational award

TWO Skelmersdale schools are set to represent Lancashire at a prestigious educational event.

Hillside Community Primary in Egerton and St. John's Catholic Primary in Flamstead have been shortlisted for the Early Years Setting of the Year category at the TES School Awards.

Hillside Community Primary won this category in 2015 for their 'Young Explorers' approach to early years education which focuses on play-based learning.

Only eight schools across the whole of the United Kingdom are shortlisted in each category.

The Oscars-style awards, held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London in June, provide a real opportunity for successful and innovative schools to showcase their best practice, and demonstrate their vision, commitment and outstanding contribution to education.

The TES Schools Awards, now in their ninth year, celebrate the commitment, quality and innovation shown by teachers and support staff across the UK.

The awards have 17 categories, including primary school, secondary school, headteacher and healthy school. New for 2017 are the community impact award and collaboration award.

Entry is free and open to state and independent schools in the UK.

Pupils and teachers at St John's Catholic Primary celebrate being shortlisted for a prestigious TES Schools Award

The Skelmersdale pair are the only schools in Lancashire to be shortlisted.

Angela Aspinwall-Livesey, executive headteacher of both schools, said she was immensely proud of the dedicated staff who work "incredibly hard, day in and day out, to provide a unique, creative and inspirational environment in which children thrive and achieve exceptionally well.

"It is so wonderful to be singled out from hundreds of schools throughout the country.

"We can't wait to attend the event on June 23 to celebrate the ground-breaking work and pioneering practice prevalent within both school communities.

"Fingers crossed that a Skelmersdale school comes home with the trophy!"

Commitment to pupils' communication skills wins national recognition

ELM Tree Community Primary has been highly commended in the SEN (Special Education Needs) School of the Year category at an awards ceremony in London.

The school in Elmers Road, Tanhouse was recognised for its continued commitment to developing pupils' communication skills in the 2017 Shine a Light Awards, run by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust and hosted by singer and theatre star Gareth Gates.

The Shine a Light Awards is a national scheme celebrating innovative work and excellent practice in supporting children and young people's communication development.

Elm Tree Community Primary caters for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan for social, emotional and mental health difficulties, including those with autism.

In 2015 the school commissioned a whole-school language assessment by a speech and language therapist to enable them to plan a service that would meet the needs of every individual pupil, not just those with the most severe difficulties.

As a result, a full-time speech and language therapist was employed, with the initial expectation that they would work one-to-one with children on their speech and language skills.

Just 12 months later they had an integral member of staff, who not only worked one-to-one with the children with the most challenging communication issues, but also embedded her knowledge and understanding of speech and language development to improve that of other members of staff.

The work of Elm Tree Community Primary has resulted in teachers' and teaching assistants' level of understanding and knowledge of children with social communication difficulties increasing immensely. Closing the link of communication and behaviour has shown staff that if they can overcome the pupils' communication barriers, there is a significant impact on their behaviour, self-esteem and self-image.

Staff and pupils at Elm Tree Community Primary with their certificate

Headteacher at the school, David Lamb, said: "We are incredibly honoured to have received national recognition for the hard work and dedication of our speech and language team so early on in the development of this service.

"As a school, we have a very clear vision of how we plan to develop this service further, so that we can make a difference to the lives of many more children in the future; not only within our own school but within our 54 mainstream primary schools who we support through our outreach service."

Gareth Gates, commented: "The dedication of Elm Tree Community Primary School is outstanding. Being able to communicate with confidence is often taken for granted but for many it is an everyday struggle. I have found my stutter crippling at times but I have learnt ways to manage my difficulties with the support of others."

Officials of the Skelmersdale Veterans' Association Alan Lewis, Harry McKenzie, Tom Creevy and Gary Simpson

Vicar to perform blessing service for Veterans' Association's colours

Report by **Henry James**

THE vicar of St Paul's Church in Old Skelmersdale is to bless the flags of the Skelmersdale Veterans' Association.

Reverend Chris Spittle will perform the service on Sunday, May 14 at 9.15am at the church in Church Road.

The veterans' colours and Union Jack have been sponsored by Hotter Shoes and Skelmersdale Action for Youth.

Alan Lewis from Skelmersdale Veterans' Association said: "The association would like to invite any serving or ex-service personnel and their families to come along to St Paul's and watch the blessings of their flags.

"The association is growing each month with new members from all three services. There will be a get-together at the Hare and Hounds in Ormskirk Road, Skelmersdale after the service.

"The practice of carrying colours act as a rallying point for troops marks the location of the commander and the tradition is believed to go back 5,000 years to Ancient Egypt."

The association would also like to thank Asda and all their shoppers for their support. Fundraising at the venue has raised more than £360 for the group's planned Armed Forces Day on July 23/24.

Members of the group had hoped to organise a concert involving school children to remember the Battle of the Somme on Friday, June 30 this year, but have not had the response they hoped for.

Poignant

However, Alan Lewis commented: "We would like to thank Little Digmoor and Moorside schools for responding to the appeal for schools to come and join us at this poignant time of the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme."

And the association will still be running the Battle of the Somme Regimental Dinner and Disco on Saturday, July 1. This will be staged at the Evermoor Hub Community Centre, Digmoor.

The event, for over-18s with tickets costing £8.50, will run from 6.15pm to 11.15pm.

It is open to any member of the Armed Forces, their family and friends and all money raised will go towards the assocation's Armed Forces Weekend.

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Congratulations
to both schools on being shortlisted at the TES School Awards on the 23rd June in the *"Early Years Setting of the Year"* category

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Council reminder about green bin service 'sign up and pay' deadline

Report by **Henry James**

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being reminded that they should sign up and pay for the council's controversial new chargeable garden waste collection service before Monday, May 15.

This will ensure no interruption to their service, with collections continuing every two weeks.

Charges for the green bin collection service apply from Monday, June 5 and residents can choose if they wish to use the service.

It will cost £30 per year for one green bin to be emptied but householders can have additional green bins emptied at a cost of £25 per year for each additional bin.

Residents can buy additional bins from the council at a cost of £23 each.

Convenient

Council bosses are urging residents to access the local authority's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/gardenwaste, as they say this is the quickest and most convenient way to sign up and pay.

Heidi McDougall, West Lancs Council's director of Street Scene Services, said: "There has been a good response from households wanting to sign up for the chargeable service and most have chosen to use the website as this is the quickest way to subscribe.

"The website is available 24/7 and enables people to sign up and pay from the comfort of their home at a time that is convenient for them."

Residents have until Monday, May 15 to sign up and pay for West Lancs Council's new chargeable green bin collection service to ensure no interruptions

Meanwhile, leaflets are being delivered to every household in the borough giving information about the changes. Information is also provided at www.westlancs.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Residents who decide not to sign up and pay can dispose of garden waste at household waste recycling centres, or alternatively, compost it.

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Air Cadets Corporal Holly Cooper and Corporal Dawid Przybylski proudly show their medals

Cadets tackle gruelling two-day march to earn prestigious decoration

TWO air cadets from Skelmersdale have completed a gruelling two-day marching event to earn a prestigious decoration.

Corporal Holly Cooper and Corporal Dawid Przybylski, both from Skelmersdale 1439 Squadron, took part in the Royal Air Force Walking and Road Marching Association (RAFWARMA) March.

The RAFWARMA March is an annual marching event consisting of a 50-mile march across two days, each day being 25 miles or 40km.

This year's event was held at RAF Cosford and a total of six teams of 90 staff and cadets from Merseyside Wing took part.

Commanding Officer of Skelmersdale 1439 Squadron Flight Lieutenant Jo Henderson, said: "Both Holly and Dawid went through months of gruelling training to gain this immense achievement.

"To complete this prestigious decoration both cadets had to march long and hard for two days.

"But this was no problem to these super-fit cadets who showed pure determination and dedication to achieve this magnificent accomplishment gaining their bronze WARMA medals.

"We hope this is an inspiration to some of our younger cadets for next year's march"

The 1439 (Skelmersdale) Squadron RAF Air Cadets parade every Monday and Friday evenings at Daniels Lane, Skelmersdale.

New recruits are always welcome. Anyone aged 12 and upwards (Year 8 and above) interested in joining can email 1439@aircadets.org.

Constabulary backs week of action to reduce knife crime

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Constabulary is supporting a week of action aimed at reducing knife crime.

Operation Sceptre, which started on Monday, May 1 and runs to Sunday, May 7, is a national campaign targeting knife crime and those who carry knives.

While knife crime in Lancashire is no worse than many other parts of the country, police are keen to stress that any incident involving a knife could have tragic consequences and destroy lives.

Chief Inspector Mark Baines, of Lancashire Police, said: "Too many families have been affected by knife crime with even one person being stabbed being one too many. The consequences of carrying and using a knife can be devastating and potentially life-threatening.

"I would appeal directly to people that if you know someone who is carrying a knife, don't keep silent. Report it.

"The law is simple - it is illegal to carry a knife, even if it belongs to someone else.

"Anyone who is found carrying a knife and is intending to use it as a weapon - even in self-defence - can be arrested, go to court and receive a police record or even a prison sentence of up to four years and an unlimited fine."

Knife bins were used at locations across Lancashire during surrenders in 2014 and 2016 when hundreds of knives were handed in and taken off the streets.

Amnesties in 2014 and 2016 saw hundreds of weapons removed from Lancashire's streets now the county police are supporting Operation Sceptre which aims to reduce knife crime

But while the bins aren't being used during this week, police will consider the use of a surrender again in the future and would encourage people to think about why they own a knife and the repercussions of carrying or using it.

Officers will also continue to carry out test purchase operations to ensure that retailers are not selling knives to people under the age of 18.

Ch. Insp. Baines added: "Lancashire Constabulary has a zero tolerance policy toward possession of knives in public and we take reports of knife crime very seriously. We will act on all intelligence received in a bid to prevent people losing loved ones and to detain those who intend to commit acts of violence using knives.

"If you have information about the possession of knives or offensive weapons or criminal activity relating to this type of crime, call 101 or make a report online via the Lancashire Constabulary website.

"You can also anonymously report information to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, said: "Knives are potentially lethal weapons and I fully support Lancashire Constabulary's bid to get them off our streets.

"No-one should live in fear of knives being used in their community. I have funded a range of projects to help stop people getting involved in knife crime – from a hard-hitting film to show to our county's young people to projects that work with vulnerable people to steer them away from crime."

Young people are being encouraged to log onto the Trust Ed website at www.trusted2know.co.uk, to find out more about knife crime and the dangers of carrying a knife on Lancashire's streets.

If you don't feel ready to call police but want to talk to someone, contact Lancashire Victim Services or the young peoples' support service Nest.

Details can be found on the constabulary website.

The students from the Artz Centre

Artz Centre students shine at showcase

STUDENTS from The Artz Centre in Skelmersdale took centre stage when they provided entertainment for the Mayor's Charity Showcase event at Hurlston Hall.

The showcase was held to mark the end of the mayoral fundraising efforts and to pay tribute to all those who have helped throughout the year.

The Artz Centre sent 25 students to represent them with ages ranging from eight to 21.

The students performed two 35-minute sets that featured some of the most memorable musical theatre songs of the last 50 years, including songs from Cats, West Side Story, Les Miserables and the new American smash hit, Hamilton.

One guest said: "It was like someone had picked us up and put us in a West End Theatre", while others commented on the outstanding professionalism and talent of the youngsters from Skelmersdale.

Artz Centre director, Mark Ashton, said: "We were very grateful to be chosen as one of the mayor's charitable causes for 2016-17.

"And we wanted to say thank-you in our own way and thought this would be a great way to do so.

"I was immensely proud of the students and staff who put on an outstanding show for the mayor and her guests.

'Fantastic'

"The students were walking in to the unknown and a very different atmosphere to what they are used to. But nights like this are what performers thrive on and the extra pressure of the occasion certainly brought out the best in them."

Meanwhile great feedback from the event has continued to come in.

Mayor, Councillor Liz Savage, commented: "The Artz centre provided a fantastic evening of entertainment.

"The students' commitment and preparation prior to the evening was evident and their performances were amazing.

"A visiting mayor commented on the standard and said it had some of the best performances that she had ever seen and outperformed professional shows."

The Artz Centre perform a range of shows and events throughout the year with a busy summer of productions already in the calendar.

They are currently working on a night of Monologue, High School Musical and the brand new Madagascar. These productions will be staged in June and July this year.

To have Artz perform at your event or for more information contact them on 01695 733080 or visit www.artzcentre.co.uk, they are also available on Facebook and Twitter.

Hospital forced to postpone operations

THE Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has apologised to patients whose procedures were postponed after technical issues in its decontamination suite on Tuesday, April 25.

Engineers were called in to investigate at Southport hospital after a residue was found in a number of operating theatre instrument sets following their sterilisation.

The residue does not represent an infection risk but use of the decontamination suite was suspended as a precaution.

This has led to a shortfall in instrument sets available to the trust and to the postponement of planned operations. Instead priority is being given to patients who need immediate attention.

Sterilisation of trust instrument sets is being carried out at neighbouring trusts while the local issue is resolved.

Therese Patten, the trust's chief operating officer, said: "I want to apologise to patients who have had their procedure postponed.

"Our priority is always the safe care of our patients and providing a quality service. That's why we have taken the difficult decision to delay some procedures."

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Lancashire Age UK chief executive Stephanie Tufft (centre) and team at the launch of the charter

Charity launches new older people's charter

A NEW older people's charter has been launched at the Age UK Lancashire Wellbeing Centre in Ormskirk by Age UK Lancashire, chief executive, Stephanie Tufft.

Rosie Cooper, Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, Age UK staff, local residents, councillors and representatives from partner organisations were also in attendance at the event at the centre in Moorgate.

The Charter for Later Life has been developed by staff at the charity who have been working closely with older people's groups and forums during the last year to find out what the real issues are for them and asking for ideas on how they can influence positive changes and support on a wider scale.

Staff at Age UK Lancashire felt it was important to show their commitment to older people by outlining what they stand for and believe in and how they will continue to strive to support people from all backgrounds, cultures, minority groups and areas of Lancashire.

Guests were given the opportunity to sign up at the event in support of the charter.

Stephanie Tufft said: "We have a clear direction and know what our responsibilities are to older people. The way we once worked has changed and we have to develop new relationships and discover new ways to raise funds in order for us to engage with and support as many older people across the county as possible.

"I believe our charter highlights the work we already do really well and goes a step further to show our future commitments to the older population."

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Workmates line up for their charity calendar hat-trick!

Report by **Henry James**

Redwood staff line up for their next charity calendar

BIG-hearted employees at a Skelmersdale company are set to put themselves 'in the frame' for a third time to raise money for a worthy cause.

In 2015 employees at Redwood Technical & Specialist Manufacturer in Pimbo copied the members of the Rylstone Women's Institute, who were featured in the 2003 film Calendar Girls, by making their own calendar to collect money for prostate cancer, as many of them knew someone whose lives had been affected by the condition.

They managed to collect £1,250 for the condition.

Then last year they produced a second calendar to fundraise for Marie Curie and the charity, Second Hope, which helps people with breast cancer.

They selected Second Hope as one of the employees has a sister called Margaret Davies, who is struggling with cancer. Last year's efforts raised £600 for Marie Curie and £200 for Second Hope.

This year the staff want to help children and young adults affected by cancer.

One of the organisers, Angela Priest, said: "We want to raise as much money as we can for young people affected by cancer. We hope to have the calendars ready in September, so people can buy them in the run-up to Christmas.

"We have made some good costumes for the calendars and we will be dressed up as superheroes, characters from Pirates of the Caribbean and Captain Hook."

When the calendars are ready they will be available in Thoughts That Count in the Concourse.

Angela added: "We have sold hundreds of calendars over the last two years and are hoping to do so again this time."

The Men-Aces celebrate their St George's Day success in Bolton

Men-Aces' St George's Day Trophy triumph

TWO Skem Men-Aces teams were in action in the St George's Day Trophy when they travelled to Bolton to take on the AFC Masters of Bolton.

The teams played a number of matches where the banter and sportsmanship was apparent throughout.

And the Men-Aces brought back the silverware to the tune of their favourite song in the minibus on the way home.

Skem project to benefit from Co-op scheme

A £46,000 funding boost from the Co-op has helped 23 community groups across the region, including West Lancashire.

When a Co-op member buys own-brand products from food stores or a funeral plan or funeral from Funeralcare, they receive a five per cent reward for themselves with a further one per cent going to local good causes.

All those one per cent rewards, plus the proceeds of the carrier bag charge in England, has resulted in the £46,000 pay-out in Merseyside. Nationally, 4,000 good causes are sharing a total pot of £9 million.

Among the good causes set to benefit are the Hope House Project in Skelmersdale, Southport Soup Kitchen and the 44th Ormskirk Scouts Group.

Chief membership officer at the Co-op, Rufus Olins, said: "The Co-op has always been community focussed.

"By listening to our members we are able to identify what communities care most about and then offer support that really makes a difference, and by working with and supporting local good causes great things are happening."

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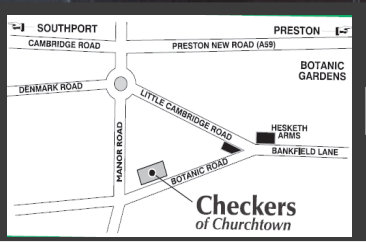

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Chance to take a step back in time at Medieval Weekend

THERE'S another opportunity to take a step back in time to get a taste of what life was like in West Lancashire 900 years ago when the ever-popular Ormskirk Medieval Weekend returns to the town's Coronation Park.

The fabulous, two-day extravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14 May, will give visitors the chance to experience the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of both Norman England, and the exotic Byzantine Empire as two armies clash!

Organised by West Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Service, the fantastic free event will feature 12th century re-enactment group Historia Normannis taking you on a journey through time.

The ever-popular Ormskirk Medieval Weekend event is set to return to the town next weekend

Exciting

Over the weekend the park will come alive with fabulous medieval-themed activities, entertainment and displays for people of all ages to enjoy between 11am and 4pm on both days.

Previous events have proved hugely successful with thousands of people attending.

Dave Tilleray, West Lancs Council's director of Leisure and Wellbeing, said: "Once again some wonderful displays and activities have been lined up which will make the Ormskirk Medieval Weekend a great treat for all the family. So make sure you come and enjoy this fantastic event."

Members of Historia Normannis will do battle in exciting combat displays and tournaments, bringing the exciting events of the Fourth Crusade to life.

Visitors can try on the armour, take a closer look at the weapons and how they're made, or even try their hand at archery.

Everyday life in the 12th century will be featured with medieval cooking demonstrations and a fashion show to talk about the different styles of dress of the times. There will also be displays of medieval crafts.

Several other medieval-themed activities and stalls are being planned for the day.

Meanwhile hungry visitors will be able to enjoy a range of refreshments and there will also be face-painting, children's rides and a giant bouncy castle.

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Edge Hill University is a previous winner of the green eco category of the design awards

Still time to nominate buildings for council's 2017 design awards

WEST Lancs residents still have time to nominate a unique building or development for a special design award.

Nominations are being taken until 5pm on Friday, May 26 for the borough council's 2017 West Lancashire Design Awards, which aim to acknowledge and promote the importance of good quality development and building design.

Judging will be in five categories - new residential developments; the conversion of existing buildings; commercial developments; sustainable building design; and landscaping proposals.

Awards will be given for designs which contribute to the overall quality of the borough and will focus on community, economic and environmental regeneration and the use of sustainable building techniques. Designs must have been completed after June 2015 to be eligible for entry.

John Harrison, West Lancs Council's director of development and regeneration, said: "It is important to recognise and reward the best new developments. I would encourage people to nominate the projects they feel have enhanced the area they live in and there is still time to tell us about the buildings and developments that you believe should win these awards.

"The council is committed to encouraging good design throughout the borough and the awards are a great way to celebrate distinctive, high-quality development here in West Lancashire.

"The award scheme, which has been running since 1989, highlights the council's wish to work in partnership with architects, developers, owners and other agencies involved in planning to improve our built environment and the quality of life for all the residents of West Lancashire."

You can nominate online or download the forms by visiting westlancs.gov.uk/design. Forms are also available from local libraries, the Customer Service Points in Derby Street, Ormskirk, and The Concourse, Skelmersdale, or by emailing Ian Bond, heritage and environment manager, at ian.bond@westlancs.gov.uk or calling 01695 585167.

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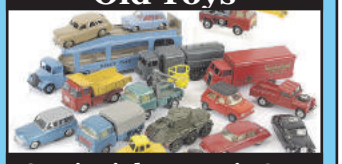

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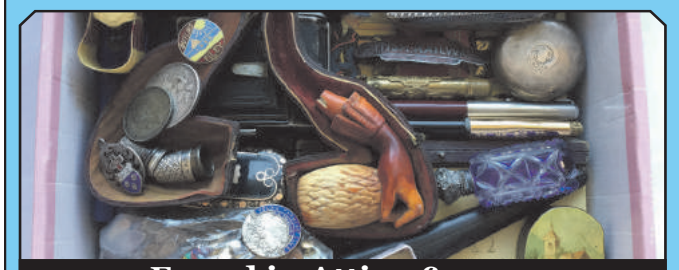

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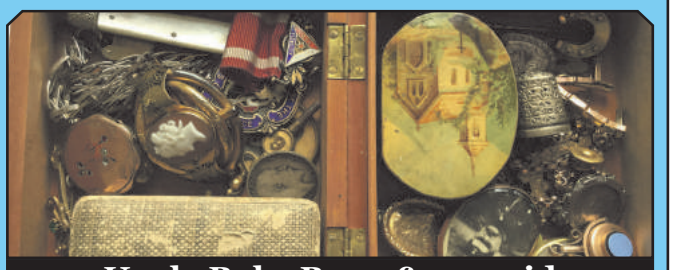

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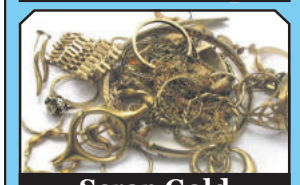

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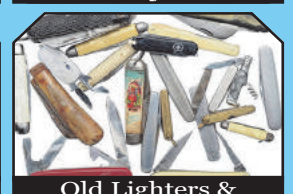

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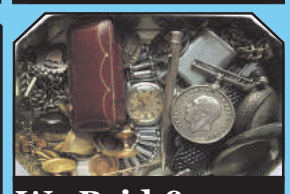

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Opportunity to nominate children's ward for £15,000 'cine makeover'

by Danielle Thompson

WEST Lancs residents are being offered the chance to nominate the children's ward at Ormskirk Hospital for a 'cine-makeover' worth more than £15,000.

Children's wards at hospitals across the country are being offered the chance to have a space in their facility transformed into a state-of-the-art cinema room, complete with all the latest technology.

Finite Solutions, a national company specialising in smart home technologies and bespoke home cinema design and installation, is looking to provide a children's ward with a full cinema room installation worth more than £15,000 for its patients and visitors to enjoy.

It will include a full suite of top-of-the-range equipment including a HD projector and 100-ft screen, state-of-the-art surround sound, Blu-Ray player and games console, as well as a series of children's movies.

Visitors, patients, staff or members of the public can make a nomination by simply submitting a short description of what the new facility could be used for first - for example, hosting a Disney film marathon, a console gaming tournament or a pyjama party - before 4pm on Friday, May 12.

The nominated children's wards will be then be opened up to an online public vote, to decide which facility will receive the cinema makeover. This vote will also be coupled with the opinions of an expert panel of judges.

Simon Mathieson, Finite Solutions' consultancy director, said: "We really wanted to team up with a hospital or care unit to do something positive and fun for a group of deserving young people and the campaign is allowing us to do just that.

"Hospitals typically lack the funding required for such facilities, and we hope to bring fun and relaxation to hospital residents and visitors by installing a fantastic cinema room that everyone can enjoy for many years to come. We would invite people across West Lancs to nominate their local ward."

For more details or to submit a nomination, go to the website finitesolutions.co.uk/cine-makeover.

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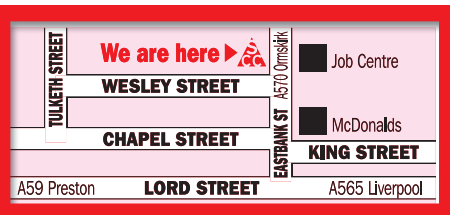

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Maybe if this permit rule wasn't in place people wouldn't fly-tip?

WITH regards to the article in last week's Champion (April 26) on fly-tipping.

First of all, may I state from the start that I don't condone fly-tipping and the fine that was handed out was right.

However, where I do have an issue is with the way the council work their rules regarding vans in the West Lancs refuse centres.

I know the van in question was stated as being a commercial vehicle and they are not allowed at all, but I hired a van a few years ago and while I had it I had a couch that I wanted to dump.

I placed it in the van and took it to the tip where I was told that I wasn't allowed to dump it without a permit, which I had to obtain from the council.

So I brought it back and left it in the garden as the hire van had to go back later that day.

When I phoned the council up to PAY to have it taken away I told the man on the phone about what had happened the previous day and I was told that the men working on the tip could have phoned through to the council and obtained a permit for me there and then, as long as it was in office hours.

I asked could I have it taken away for nothing as the men on the tip hadn't informed me of this and I was told no as it was a different department to them.

This brings me to my point. I would never have fly-tipped that couch, even if I had known that I was going to have to pay to have it removed.

But someone else might have, and all because of a stupid rule that says you can't use a van at a council tip.

I understand if it is a commercial vehicle but not every fly-tipper uses a commercial vehicle to get to the point where they fly-tip their waste, and if this silly permit wasn't in place maybe people wouldn't fly-tip?

Steven Lowe,
Hallcroft, Skelmersdale

Removing guards from trains is very much a safety issue

WITH reference to the letter from John Tilley (Champion, April 26) I can fully agree with everything he has said.

I had 49 years' experience working for various railway companies and rest assured to remove guards from Merseyrail trains will be a retrograde step and will bring untold problems for passengers should situations exist such as derailments, suicides, bad behaviour etc.

The position of guards on all trains is important and as far as I was concerned the removal of brake vans on the rear of trains years ago and putting the guard in the locomotive was ridiculous.

Imagine a scenario with a train of 24 100-tonne tankers full of fuel and the next-to-last wagon derails.

By the time the guard in the loco cab realises this has happened the train has ripped up half a mile of track (possibly through a station) and caught fire.

With a guard at the rear this would have been noticed and dealt with much sooner.

Do NOT remove guards from trains. It is 100 percent a safety issue.

John Brown,
Eskdale Avenue, Aughton

PICTURE of the week

Stoking up scale model steam powered haulage vehicles on show at the recent Steam and Vintage Vehicle Rally staged at The Leisure Lakes, Mere Brow. Picture by Martyn Snape.

'False facts' don't help rail debate

WITH regards to the letter by John Tilley RMT Regional Organiser (Champion, April 26).

Mr Tilley's colleagues who work on the tube would be surprised by his assertion that it is a light railway, as would the Office of the Rail Regulator.

He appears to be confusing the tube with the Docklands Light Rail system.

The tube is NOT a light railway.

Top speeds are similar to Merseyrail, with a maximum of over 60mph on the Metropolitan Line and 50mph on the Victoria Line, although speeds on other lines are lower (around 30 to 40mph) due to the short distances between stations.

He is, however, correct that they have many fewer level crossings than Merseyrail.

He is also correct that the tube has more than 1,000 safety incidents involving the platform train interface per year.

However, the tube has around three passenger injuries per million journeys compared with more than four per million journeys for the national network, of which Merseyrail forms a part.

I cannot find specific statistics for Merseyrail so I don't know if they are better or worse than the national network generally.

I have no strong views on driver-only operation but the debate is not helped by false 'facts'.

Peter Harrison,
Bold Lane, Aughton

Council tax should cover the cost of garden waste removal

I WOULD like to see a full editorial on the introduction of a payment of £30 per annum to have your garden waste removed.

This is an absolutely disgusting payment as this should be covered by our council tax as it is in other councils across the country.

West Lancashire Borough Council seems to give nothing to the electorate but likes to impose charges wherever they can.

When I was coming up to 60 I thought I would get a travel pass like many other councils give - but no, WLBC make you wait until you are 65 as you no doubt know.

I only hope the boundary between St Helens and West Lancs moves in the not-too-distant future.

Disgruntled reader, by email

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Thanks for spreading the word about veterans' Normandy trips

I WOULD like to thank your newspaper for publishing my letter about Remembrance Travel's search for all surviving D Day veterans.

Thanks to the media's support we've managed to find four times more veterans for this year's tours to Normandy than we ever have before.

This year we shall be running a further five trips, which have now started and will run until September.

In addition to the Normandy tours, we shall also be offering D Day veterans, especially those who are no longer fit to travel to France, the chance to visit the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire on the anniversary of D Day in June.

All of these tours of remembrance have been enabled by the Treasury thanks to LIBOR fines on the banks, which pay for a veteran, carer and a member of the family to join a tour free of charge.

Once again, thanks so much for helping us spread the word about these vital tours. Thanks to you Normandy veterans - now mostly in their 90s - will get the chance to pay respects to their fallen comrades, perhaps for the last time.

Many thanks.

Nichola Rowlands, Remembrance Travel,
Royal British Legion

£100 fine for car park 'overstay' is disgusting

I AM absolutely disgusted at being fined £100 for being 10 minutes and two seconds late leaving the Two Saints car park in Ormskirk!

It took me five minutes to find a parent parking space after my car's number plate was taken, as well as getting back to the car and rushing to get the pram back in the boot.

My son had filled his nappy so I had to change him in the car on the back seat!

It's absolutely disgusting that I was fined £100 for the sake of 10 minutes and two seconds!

Angry reader, by email

Morrison's are offering customers used coffee grounds as fertiliser for their gardens

Used coffee giveaway grounds for perking up the garden!

STAFF at a supermarket in Ormskirk are giving away used coffee grounds to help green-fingered customers to improve their gardens.

Workers at Morrisons store in Park Road brewed up the great idea to help customers to fertilise their plants.

Keen gardeners can simply pick up a bag located on a dedicated stand within the store and there's no limit to the number of bags available to each gardener to take away.

Used coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen which is needed by plants in order to grow. They also encourage the growth of micro-organisms and are thought to attract earth worms.

Gardeners can either compost their used coffee grounds or put them directly into the soil around their plants.

Putting them directly into the soil also adds organic matter which improves the soil's water retention, drainage and structure.

The coffee recycling scheme, which started last week is available in all of the Morrisons cafés across the UK.

Hannah Evans, store manager at Morrisons, Ormskirk said: "Used coffee grounds are a great organic resource which gardeners can use in their composter or soil. We sell a lot of cups of coffee in our stores and don't like to see anything going to waste - so it's great to see this natural fertiliser going to a good home. We hope that when spring comes Ormskirk's plants will be in full bloom as a result!"

Scouts' spring fair

THE 29th Burscough Scout group are staging their fundraising Spring Fair on Saturday, May 6 at St John's playing fields on School Lane.

The event runs from noon until 3pm with fun for all the family including a bouncy castle, cakes, face painting, tombola, barbecue and plant sale. Entry costs just £1 per family.

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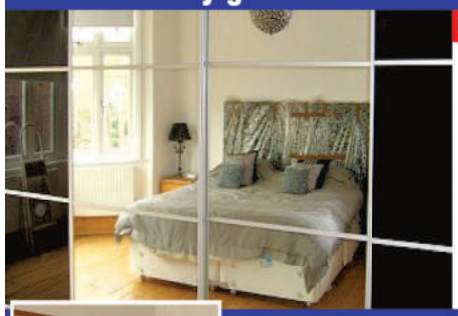

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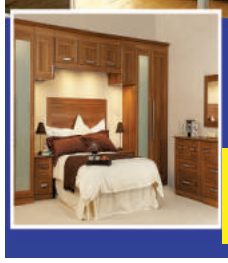

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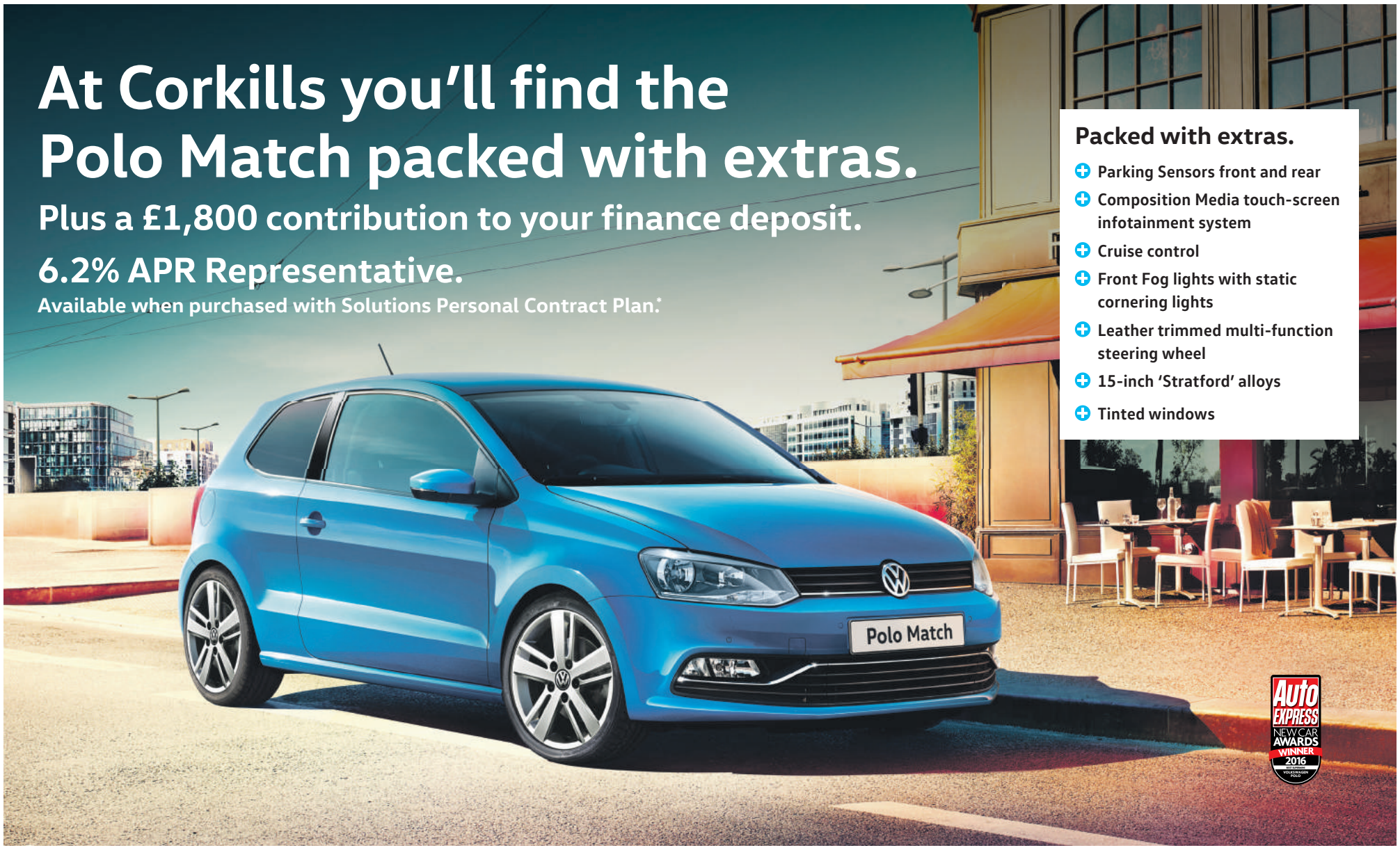

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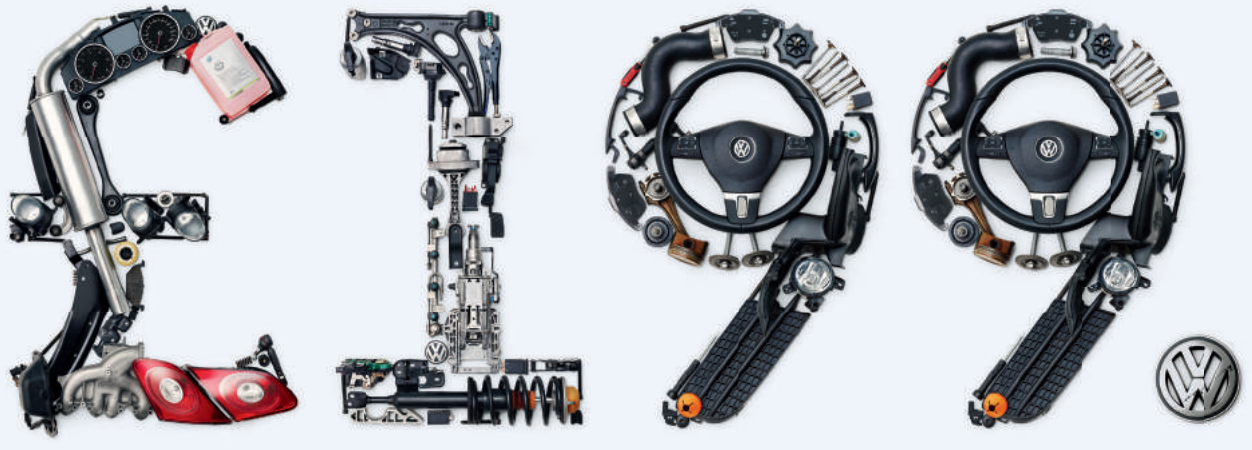

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Computers are now controlling our planes - and our lives!

I HAVE been watching a TV series recently explaining the causes of various plane crashes in recent times.

Before I start, I should emphasise that the rarity of such incidents was made clear and I fully believe that flying is indeed statistically the safest method of getting around.

But one thing above all else really concerned me - the reliance pilots these days place upon computer-controlled equipment, and in some cases the lack of training they have for any breakdown, happily very rare, in such systems. There's no doubt these systems have saved many lives, but also not a few deaths have been caused directly by them.

We have, it seems to me, become too reliant on such systems in our daily lives. Young people apparently can exhibit great mental stress if deprived of their tablets or such. This won't happen to me, but I DO incur stress when I find that I can only easily obtain certain information by 'going to...' - which I cannot!

Even as I tap this article out on my laptop, kindly lent to me by Champion Newspapers, I know that when it comes to me saving the results I face a battle with this bit of electronic hardware.

For reasons of its own, nine times out of ten it flatly refuses to place the copy in the JIM (E) file, but instead either in 'desktop' or 'documents'.

Both of these files are pretty busy, so it takes a little time to locate the item I want and transfer it to my memory stick on JIM (E).

What is really odd is that just occasionally it will go to the file I need straight off, which puzzles me and makes me cross, quite apart from wasting time.

But what if my laptop was the instrument panel of my 737? What if that did a similar trick? Possibly by the time I'd got to grips with it we'd be in an uncontrollable stall.

And of course, what happens when there's a computer glitch in your hole in the wall machine, one that extends to others in the area too? No money, result? Misery!

Or supposing you have both bank cards and actual 'real' money and you visit your local supermarket just as all their tills go down? You would not be allowed to buy anything, even if your wallet was bulging with cash.

Last night I caught the tail end of a TV programme examining the effect personal computers have on the young. Opinion was fairly divided as to whether social messaging was a good or bad thing, but I must confess that I see little enjoyment, or for that matter betterment, to be gained by facile e-conversations with people about who you know diddly-squat.

Emails too frighten me. Altough it would be handy to type out quick messages to friends or businesses, it seems to me that I would probably get myself into awfully hot water if I had this facility. It would be just too easy to bang off a 'Dear Filth' email to the electricity company, a solicitor or, worse still, a friend. The repercussions could be (and apparently often are) horrendous.

I like to say that I can get by just fine without any social messaging, or group games, or even letters. But of late it has occurred to me increasingly that just too many things (even bus times in many rural areas) are simply unavailable without electronic aid. Just what any car owner who just happens to not have a mobile phone does if he or she wishes to park in London these days I don't know.

And like so many of these modern 'can't do without' things, they hit the poorest and most vulnerable worst of all.

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Open bosses plan for 200,000-strong crowd

Report by **Henry James**

THE ORGANISERS of this year's Open Championship believe 200,000 spectators will come to the event.

This year will be the 10th to be held at Southport's Royal Birkdale Golf Club.

The 146th championship is staged by the R&A and their director of communications, Mike Woodcock, said: "Birkdale has traditionally been one of the strongest venues and the tickets have been selling very fast for this year.

"It's been one of the fastest-selling Opens we've had and we're certainly optimistic the attendance will be more than 200,000, even though it's early in the process."

The R&A have said they do not have any additional security measures planned and added they were working closely with security advisers to make sure the public is safe while watching the tournament.

There will be extra viewing platforms on the fourth, fifth, 12th and 17th greens and between 14,500 and 16,000 seats for spectators.

Royal Birkdale will play host to the Open in July

The course will measure 7,156 yards this year, which is only slightly shorter than when it was last held in Southport.

During the week the event is in Southport, which will be from July 16 to July 23, there will be also be tributes to Arnold Palmer who died last September.

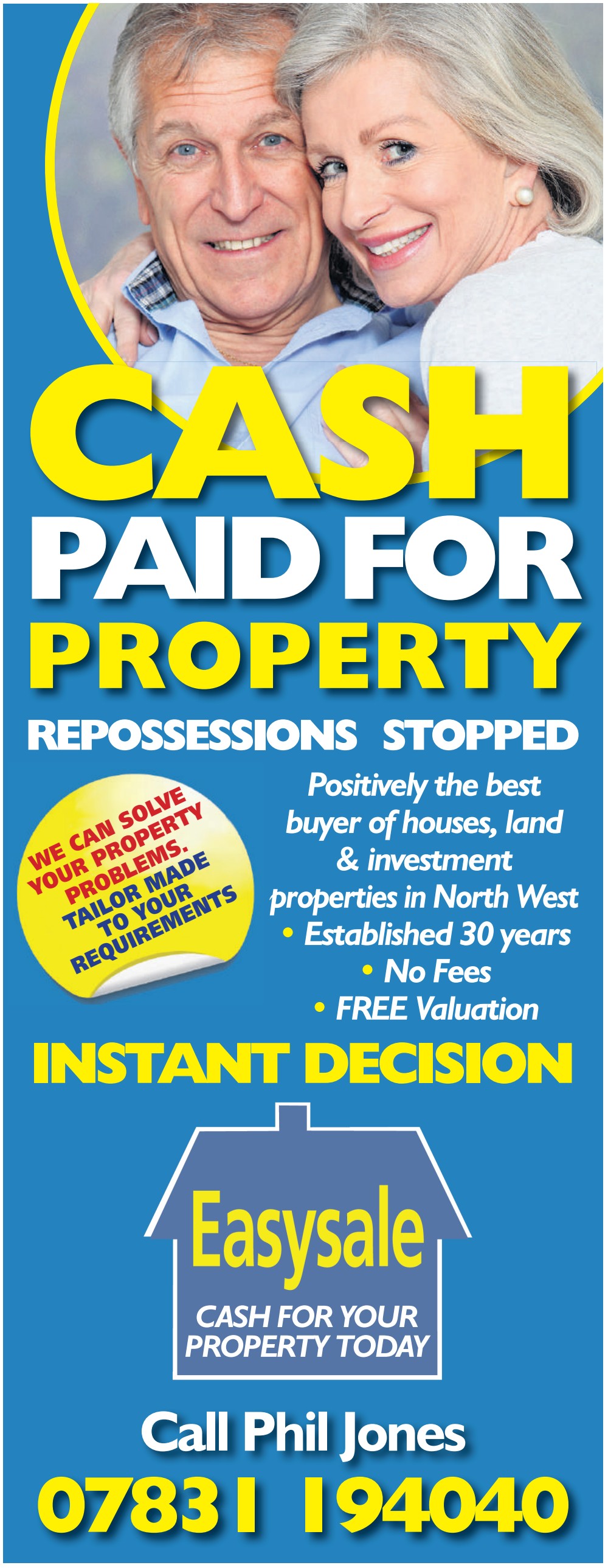
Palmer was Champion Golfer of the Year on two occasions, winning The Open at Royal Birkdale in 1961 and successfully defending the title when the Championship was staged at Royal Troon the following year.

The R&A are also planning on having a camping village in Southport's Victoria Park.

Meanwhile Nick Faldo has also spoken to journalists in Southport via teleconference as part of an event to publicise this year's championship.

He told them about his experiences playing the Open in Southport.

The 1976 event at Royal Birkdale was his first Open and he commented: "In 1976 I led the qualifying and played the event, and Johnny Miller won, I finished well down, but it was my first Open."



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Chance to explore borough's parks and countryside

WEST Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Service has organised a number of countryside walks in the borough in the coming weeks.

Members of the public are invited to join the council Rangers for a walk around Fairy Glen on Sunday, May 21 starting at 10am.

The route passes through some of the borough's most beautiful countryside with stunning views over Hunters Hill and Harrock Hill.

Walkers are advised to take along a packed lunch; no booking is required and meeting point is the lay-by opposite Fairy Glen (A5209).

The Rangers and a local expert will be telling people how to identify the plants and wild flowers growing in Beacon Country Park on a fascinating guided tour on Saturday, May 27.

This three-mile walk, also starting at 10am, is free, but places must be booked in advance by ringing 01695 622794 or emailing beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk.

Meeting point is the Visitor Centre at Beacon Country Park.

Meanwhile children aged between five and 12 can discover new skills on two wheels at a free Bike Ability Level 1 course at Coronation Park, Ormskirk on Sunday, May 28.

Whether you are learning to ride on two wheels for the first time or improving your balance and ability, this session will suit you. Youngsters can learn to control their bikes, signal, improve observation and learn techniques to prepare them for road cycling in the future.

Places must be booked in advance by ringing 01695 570258 or emailing anne.faulkner@westlancs.gov.uk

Volunteers are invited to help the Rangers prevent Himalayan Balsam from spreading through Fairy Glen and choking native plants at a 'Balsam Bashing' event on Wednesday May, 31.

To join the bashing team ring 01695 622794 or email beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk. Meeting point is the lay-by opposite Fairy Glen (A5209).

Please note under-16s require adult supervision at all these activities. Also, appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn when attending these events and gardening gloves are recommended for the Balsam Bashing.

Coronation Park, Ormskirk will host a free Bike Ability course for youngsters

Helping hand for disability charity

DISABILITY Advice West Lancs (DAWL), has been awarded a £1,247 grant from the Co-Op Community Fund to help support its work in the community to provide specialist information and advice to disabled people and carers.

The charity is based on the second floor of Whelmar House, adjacent to the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale.

Anyone wanting help can call into the office in person or ring the freephone on 0800 220676. Opening hours are 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday.

The Queen's Award-winning charity, established in 1981, provides high-quality, confidential information, advice and support to disabled people and their carers in West Lancashire, enabling them to make informed choices about how they wish to live their lives.

Examples of services provided include information and advice about equipment, holidays, leisure, mobility, community care, transport, welfare benefits, form-filling, appeals advice and signposting.

The team deals with more than 6,000 enquiries each year and generates about a million pounds in welfare benefit income for clients.

Tony Lewis, manager of Disability Advice West Lancs

Tony Lewis, manager of DAWL, said: "Our thanks go to the local Co-Op Community Fund. Its members can choose to give 1% of what they spend on Co-op-branded products and services to their chosen cause.

"I would like to thank Gary, the manager at the Up Holland Co-op store and his team, who worked really hard with us to fundraise for this grant. They were a pleasure to work with and their help really is very much appreciated."

Meanwhile, the charity is also looking to offer new opportunities to Helpline Desk adviser volunteers. Anyone interested can contact Tony Lewis on 01695 51819, email him on tonylewis@dawl.org.uk or visit the website www.dawl.org.uk.

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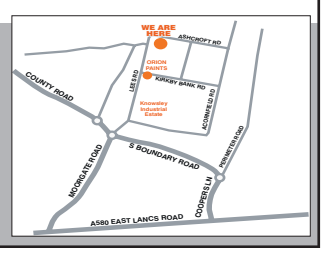

New speeding rules target weekly income

MOTORISTS in West Lancashire will face tougher punishments for the most serious of speeding offences after new rules came into force this week.

Drivers who are caught doing 51mph in a 30mph zone or 101mph on a motorway will be fined 150% of their weekly income.

This replaces the old rule of the fine being 100% of a weekly income and is hoped to make the roads safer.

The maximum fine, however, remains the same, meaning a speeding driver cannot be fined more than £1,000 unless the offence takes place on a motorway, where the limit is £2,500. The new rules came into force on Monday, April 24, with some polls carried out by insurance companies claiming that many are unaware of the change in law.

Report by **Tom Martin**

The new fines are divided in three categories – a Band A fine, less than 10mph over the speed limit, is 50% of the driver's weekly income. A Band B fine, between 11 and 20mph over the speed limit, is 100% of the driver's weekly income.

A Band C fine, for those caught going more than 20mph over the speed limit, is up to 150% of their weekly income.

In addition to the steeper fines, drivers still face points against their licence or disqualification, depending on the severity of the offence.

These changes came from a Sentencing Council consultation held last year, aiming to ensure a "clear increase in penalty as the seriousness of offending increases."

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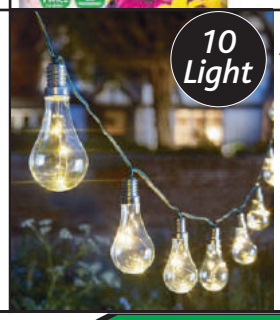

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Edge Hill chief calls for changes to attract more to teaching

EDGE Hill University's vice-chancellor has argued the need for changes to both training and teaching to make it a more secure, reliable and attractive profession.

In a report published on Thursday, April 27 by the Higher Education Policy Institute, Dr John Cater, suggests 10 changes to increase the supply of well-trained teachers for the future.

Set amidst a backdrop of falling teacher recruitment and retention, his suggested changes include calls for all schools to offer trainee placements, reported on via Ofsted inspections, and, after review, for the curriculum and exams structure to remain in place for at least 10 years.

He also suggests phased withdrawal of the current bursary system and the introduction of 'forgivable fees' in addition to a new media campaign focusing on how teachers change life chances.

Mr Cater, the longest-serving head of any UK higher education institution and chair of the UUK Teacher Education Advisory Group, said: "There is no profession more important than teaching. Life chances are created and futures mapped, particularly for those from less-advantaged backgrounds.

"Economic success, particularly post-referendum, as the country strikes out alone, depends on a highly-motivated and well-educated workforce.

"Similarly, the future of the higher education sector depends on a supply of well-educated pupils across a range of academic disciplines, which too few universities have engaged with sufficiently in the past.

"The challenges are manifest and growing, and require all parties to work together to secure teacher supply, teacher retention and teacher development as demands on the profession increase further. There are some encouraging signs, but to date the evidence of this happening is far from compelling."

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Borough doctors prescribe fewer antidepressants than regional average

DOCTORS in West Lancashire give out fewer prescriptions of antidepressants per person, on average, compared with the North West overall.

New research shows a massive disparity across the country as antidepressant prescriptions surge to more than 64 million, seven times greater than 25 years ago.

The North West dispensed on average, 1.4 prescriptions of antidepressants per person in 2016, higher than the England average of 1.16. In West Lancashire however the figure was 1.15.

Analytic database provider EXASOL has released the most in-depth analysis ever carried out into antidepressant prescribing in England.

EXASOL analysed 774 million rows of data released by the Government's NHS Digital and sourced from the NHS Business Services Authority.

The data captures every GP prescription dispensed at all pharmacies across England in the past six years. The data was analysed by data scientists at EXASOL, using the world's fastest in-memory analytic database.

Sean Jackson, chief marketing officer of EXASOL, said: "When analysing the data, we can see that the prescribing of antidepressants has increased by a large amount in recent years.

Differences

"However, this is only one part of the story: when we delve deeper, we find that the data can uncover further information such as geographic differences across the country.

"With the right data and the right technology, you can turn any problem into a data problem. People suffering from mental health problems need support and respect, these insights can direct help to the right places and it highlights where more resources are necessary.

"By uncovering insights using big data, it shows the factual reality of the problem. However, to be able to analyse such enormous data-sets requires the right tool for the job. We hope the findings will help to raise awareness of this important issue."

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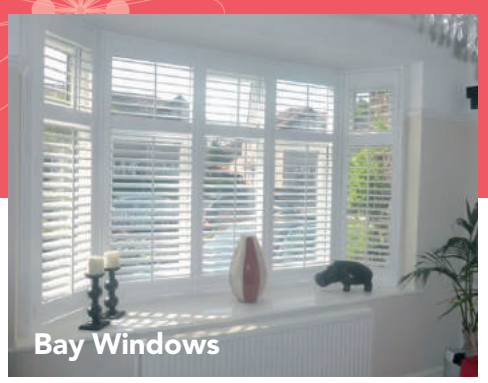
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The event will be held at County Hall, Fishergate, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm.

To adopt, you must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

Georgine Lee, the county council's adoption and fostering manager, said: "We are looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

For more information, visit lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or call the adoption team on 0800 195 1183.

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NHS Lancs to launch survey on mental health

Dee Roach of NHS Lancashire

Report by **Henry James**

PEOPLE who use NHS community mental health services in Lancashire are being encouraged to take part in a survey to drive future improvements.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust is carrying out the 2017 Community Mental Health Survey to find out what people who use these services think about the care they receive in order to improve people's experiences.

The survey is led by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of a national programme to improve mental health services for local populations.

This year the survey will be sent to 850 people aged 18 and over who have recently used the trust's services.

A spokesperson for Lancashire Care NHS Trust said: "Obtaining feedback from people who use services and understanding what is important to them is vital for improving the quality of care.

"The results will help the trust see where they are performing well and to identify any areas where there is room for improvement.

"The survey is part of a commitment to design and deliver health services with people at the heart of everything we do.

"Our vision identifies the importance of listening to people's stories so that we can learn and improve quality together.

"Those chosen to take part will receive a copy of the questionnaire to complete before the end of June.

"The results of the survey will be presented in a form that does not allow any individual's answers to be identified.

"The results of the survey will be published by the CQC in November 2017 and will be shared by the trust."

Dee Roach, executive director of nursing and quality, said: "We hope that the people who use our services will take the time to help us with this survey.

"Their views are vital in helping us to find out how we are doing and how we can improve. This is an excellent way for people to help shape the services we provide in the future."

If you have any queries or concerns about the survey contact Dawn Kenyon 01772 695366 or email involvement@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

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Musical treat for Breathe Easy group members

MEMBERS of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group were given the opportunity to 'stretch' their lungs when they played host to three members of the Power of Music group.

Singing is a useful and helpful activity for patients with respiratory problems by exercising the muscles of the chest and expanding the lungs, as well as boosting emotional well-being.

After enjoying a full hour of singing with gusto, the hosts expressed their thanks to the Power of Music trio, Ken Holt, Jacquie Sutton and Nicola Sutton, who all live in the South West Lancashire area.

The three also told members about their Songbirds Community Choirs, which meet each Tuesday evening at Ormskirk's Brookside from 6.30 to 8pm and at All Saints Church, Hesketh Bank on Friday morning from 10.30am to noon. New members are always welcome at both.

Members from the Power of Music at the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group meeting

Later on the same day, the Power of Music group also appeared at a big event at Ormskirk Fiveways organised by the British Lung foundation, at which the speakers included Dr. S. Youzguin, a respiratory consultant at both Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

More than 100 invited guests, respiratory patients from local GP surgeries, were able to learn more about the local NHS and charity services available to them, including the British Lung Foundation and local Breathe Easy Groups.

A public meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group also took place at the Girl Guide HQ in Green Lane, Ormskirk when the speaker was specialist occupational therapist, Sally Sharrock.

Car buffs' St George's Day trip to dragon's lair!

MEMBERS of the West Lancs MG Owners' Club celebrated St George's Day with a special trip out - to Wales!

More than 20 members of the car enthusiasts' club met up on Sunday, April 23 to celebrate the England patron saint's day with a 60-mile trip to Denbighshire for a carvery pub lunch. And the group put on a display for pubgoers by taking a MG-ZT, two MGFs, four MGBs, a MGA, MG Midget, RV8, a MG-TF and a BMW Z3.

Club official, Steve Kirton, said: "St George's Day fell on our annual Sunday Drive it Day Run and organiser Ray Travies thought it was about time that St George went to meet the Dragon! We had an amazing lunch at the We Three Loggerheads then all that was left to say was a big thanks to Ray and a hwyl fawr to Wales."

The group meets every third Thursday of the month at Briars Hall in Lathom. For more details visit westlancsmg.co.uk.

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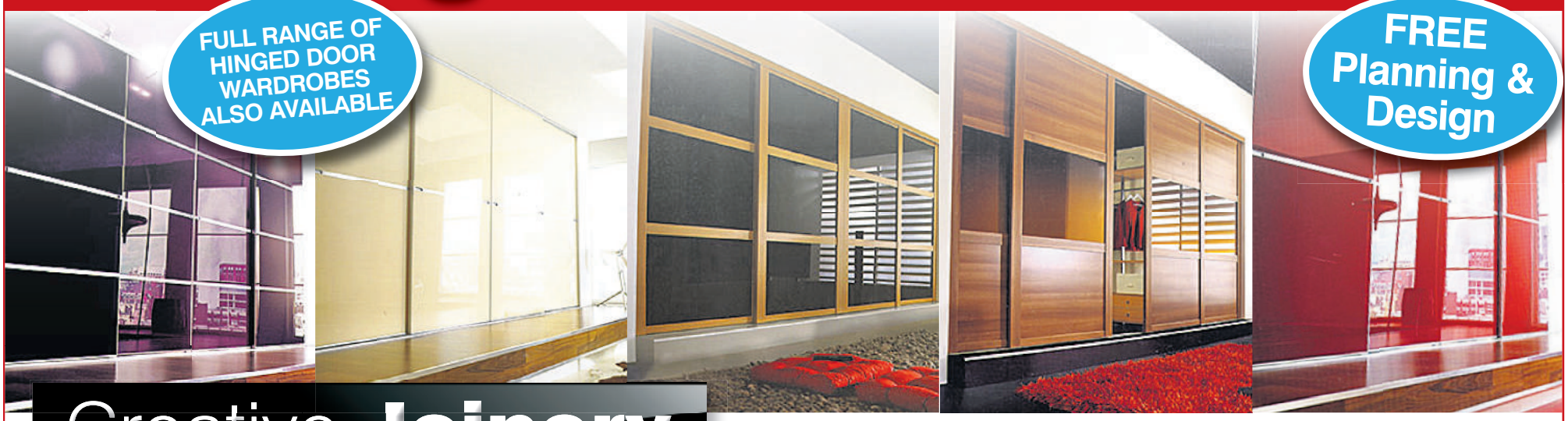

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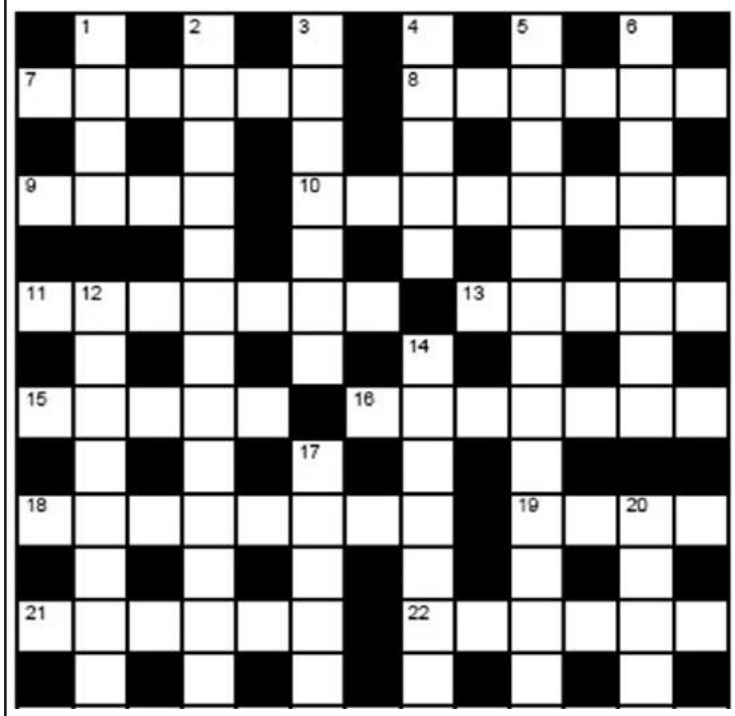

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Christmas tree. 8. Neonatal. 9. Irks. 10. Ejector. 12. Astir. 14. Slide. 16. Bandage. 19. Guru. 20. Eligible. 22. Lightheadedly.

Down: 1. Ghee. 2. Picnic. 3. Station. 4. Caulk. 5. Ethics. 6. Weakling. 11. Jalousie. 13. Vatican. 15. Douche. 17. Driver. 18. Lethe. 21. Lily.

ACROSS

7 Puzzle, confuse, or bewilder (6)
8 A climax or culmination (6)
9 Eager (4)
10 Pleasant, friendly (8)
11 Cephalopod mollusc with eight sucker-bearing arms (7)
13 Brilliant display or effect (5)
15 A very short time (5)
16 Large, fortified buildings, typically with thick walls, battlements and towers (7)
18 Terrestrial arachnid with pincers and a poisonous sting in the tail (8)
19 Drive out, expel (4)
21 For the most part (6)
22 Coiffure (6)

DOWN

1 Give up power or territory (4)
2 Religious sacrifice or overcooked meal (5,8)
3 Fervent, devout (7)
4 Tall and skinny (5)
5 A member of a Christian church headed by the Pope (5,8)
6 Person who shares a room with a prisoner (8)
12 Small talk (8)
14 Having a potbelly (7)
17 North African country, capital Tripoli (5)
20 A position to the left or right of an object, place, or central object (4)

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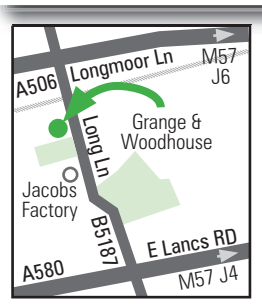

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

Leading soprano making return visit

Amanda Roocroft

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold, is presenting Amanda Roocroft soprano with Joseph Middleton pianoin the Auditorium in the Village Hall this Saturday (May 6) at 7.45 pm.

Born and raised in Coppull, now an opera star, Amanda Roocroft returns to Douglas Music to the delight of her loyal local fans.

Soon after graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music, Amanda Roocroft shot to fame at her operatic debut singing Sophie in Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier with the Welsh National Opera at the age of 24. She was highly praised for her technical brilliance and artistic grasp of the Viennese style in one of the most famous and demanding roles in the operatic repertoire.

Since her debut Amanda Roocroft has been greatly in demand at the world's top opera houses. She has made successful appearances at the BBC Promenade Concerts and the Edinburgh Festival.

Amanda is accompanied on piano by Joseph Middleton, who specialises in the art of song accompaniment and chamber music and has been highly acclaimed within this field.

Acting was 'first rate'

Review by **Ron Ellis**

Rumours by Neil Simon
SDC at Southport Little Theatre

KEN and Chris Bevans turn up for a party at the home of the Mayor and his wife, to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary, only to find the Mayoress is nowhere to be seen and the Mayor is lying behind his bedroom door, bleeding profusely after shooting himself through his ear lobe in mistake for his brain.

Ted Bullen was in his element as Ken, a man demented, while his wife (Kathy Felton-Aksoy) became more hysterical by the minute, aided by a rapid consumption of alcohol.

Then a second couple turn up, the suave Len Cummings (a masterful performance by Gary Simpson), and his wife Claire (Jennifer Corcoran, with a nice line in irony). They quickly smell a rat, so Ken reluctantly tells them the truth.

By the time the third couple arrive the truth is becoming rather twisted. Trevor Ford is Ernest, an analyst, while his wife, Cookie (Jenny Parr), is a T.V. cook. Naturally, they are left to cook the dinner in the absence of any household staff, a difficult task for Cookie who has to drag herself along the floor due to intermittent spinal spasms.

When the fourth couple appear, Glen, the epitome of a smug Tory politician (Rikki Spofforth) and his hysterical wife (Emily Parr), who publicly accuses him of having it off with one of his constituents, total chaos reigns.

Then another gunshot. Ken is now stone deaf. And where can the Mayoress be?

When two policewomen arrive (Liz Crooke and Adrienne Ledson), Len launches on a masterful rambling speech, by way of explanation of events, that brought a deserved round of delighted applause from the packed audience.

One of America's most popular playwrights, Neil Simon's comedies are noted for their biting wit and lively dialogue but this is not a comedy, it is well and truly a farce, and I have never made secret my distaste of farces. I want to shout out, "Just tell them all the mayor tried to top himself and we can all go home."

However, the acting throughout was first rate, under the direction of the irrepressible Les Gomersall, and the action kept up a breakneck pace throughout.

Also, many of Neil Simon's lines were undoubtedly funny. "We all have phones you know. We're wealthy people." And Len, who can't bend his neck after a car smashed into their BMW on the way (don't ask) murmurs, "I hope I only meet tall people tonight." Deaf Ken said: "It's quiet up there" whereupon someone points out, "How would you know?"

Rumours runs until next Saturday. Farces are popular. Book early.

Star rating: 7 out of 10. Silly but gems of humour along the way.

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Bold Lane, Aughton L39 6SG

MAY MADNESS

DINE FOR UNDER £10

Join us any **Monday to Thursday** evening between 5-6.45pm and you can choose one of chef's favourite dishes from his special menu

for under £10

T&C's apply

FRIDAY DATE NIGHT

Dine on a Friday evening and enjoy two courses from Chef's delicious evening table d'hote menu, plus share a bottle of wine from our extensive house selection

for only £19.99 *per person.*

Or if you don't want wine, then you can enjoy 2 desserts instead from our homemade selection of sweet delights!!!
(excludes entertainment evening Friday 26th May)

T&C's apply

Don't forget our REGULAR FEATURES

LUNCH TIME INDULGENCE

Monday to Saturday 12 - 2.30pm

Treat yourself to a 2 COURSE LUNCH for the great value price of £13.99
or try a LITE BITE from only £4.99

EVENING TABLE D'HOTE MENU

from £16.99 for 2 courses *(Excludes Sunday)*

2 COURSE SUNDAY LUNCH

£14.99 *(Available 12 noon - 9pm)*

Alexander's Brasserie
@ The Rufford Arms Hotel
380 Liverpool Road, Rufford L40 1SQ
T: 01704 822040

www.ruffordarms.com Rufford Arms Hotel @ruffordarms

Entertainments

Call the Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

DINING OUT

IL PADRINO

BAR RISTORANTE – AUTHENTIC ITALIAN

Early Bird Menu
2 course meal
ONLY **£9.95**
5-7pm Tuesday to Friday

Sunday Lunch
2 courses
ONLY **£11.95**
Free glass of wine included

Lunchtime Menu from **£2.95** Monday - Saturday

Monday Saver
50% OFF
All A La Carte Menu and FREE Bottle of House Wine

Thursday
GRILL NIGHT
All Steak & Fish Dishes
50% OFF

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THEATRES

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The Wizard of OZ

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Little Theatre
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13 - 20 May 2017

Nightly Performances at 7.30pm
Matinee on Sat 20 May at 2.00pm

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With Music and Lyrics of the MGM motion picture score By Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg
Background Music by Herbert Stothart, Dance & Vocal Arrangement by Peter Howard
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By arrangement with Musicscope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York

Entertainments

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EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

The Venue at Maghull Town Hall

NEWLY REFURBISHED PRIVATELY RUN
function suite
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MOTOWN IS BACK!

FRIDAY 12th MAY
7pm - late
Legendary Soul and Motown Singer
IVAN STAX
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Profits go to Honeysuckle Team, the Mayoral Charity.
£5 per ticket available at Maghull Town Hall or call Tony on 0151 526 3705 or 07542 916040

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HOLIDAYS & TRAVEL

Sensational value Hotel Breaks

All dates include Dinner, Bed & Breakfast!

Blackpool

Grand Metropole Hotel Blackpool
★2 FOR 1 BAR DEALS also available★
• Lift • Car Park • Entertainment

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
5, 12, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul
from £85	from £59.95

Hacketts Hotel Blackpool
★Seafront hotel close to North Pier★
• Lift • Car Park • Entertainment

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul
from £55	from £99.95

2/4 Nights from £55

Alton Towers Resort
• Overnight dinner, bed & breakfast at the North Stafford Hotel Stoke-on-Trent
• Free car parking at hotel
• 2 day admission ticket to Alton Towers

1 Night from £79.95

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2, 9, 16 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul 4, 11, 18, 25 Aug 1, 8, 22, 29 Sep	13, 20, 27 May 3, 10, 17, 24 Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug	21, 28 May 4, 11, 18, 25 Jun 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jul 6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
£89.95	£99.95	£79.95

Llandudno

2/3/4 Nights from £65

Chatsworth House Hotel
In an enviable position on the centre of Llandudno's level promenade. Seafront. Lift. Car Park. Entertainment. Indoor Pool.

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £99.95 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul 4, 11, 18 Aug	£129.95 26 May, 25 Aug	from £189.95 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24 Jul 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug

New Loretta Hotel
The New Loretta hotel is a short level stroll from the Promenade, Pier & Shops. Lift. Car Park. Entertainment.
EVERY NIGHT 6PM - 9PM ALL DAYS 2 for 1 Drinks

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £65 5, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul 4, 11, 18 Aug	from £99.95 26 May, 25 Aug	from £129.95 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24 Jul 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug

Palace Hotel Buxton
★Visit Bakewell & Peak District★
• Lift • Car Park (fee) • Indoor Pool

★1 Night Arrive Sunday	★2 Nights Arrive Monday
£45 7, 14, 21, 28 May 3, 10, 17, 24 Sep 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Oct	from £79.95 8, 15, 22, 29 May 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul

Headway Hotel Morecambe
★Seafront hotel, stunning views★
• Lift • Car Park • Entertainment

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
£89.95 5, 12, 19 May 9, 16, 23 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	from £159.95 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul

Pontins Half Board Prestatyn
★Kids 2-13 Half Price★
• Classic accommodation •Indoor Pool •Entertainment •Carpark

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £55 5, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 30 Jun 14, 21, 28 Jul	from £99.95 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul

Grand Hotel Scarborough
★2 for 1 BAR DEALS also available★
• Famous Hotel • Lift • Entertainment

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £69.95 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	from £139.95 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul

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ukbreakaways.com
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Subject to availability. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your network access charge.

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LADY LIKES DOING car boots.Est 25 yrs, anything bought inc, DVD's, old pens, bric-a-brac, tools, fishing tackle, costume jewellery, scrap gold, leather handbags, new & used perfumes, toiletries, watches, coins, medals,badges,musical instruments and stamps, call Pauline. 07970 820899

BIKES

CHILD'S BIKE Mountain bike for 8-11 years, 6 gears, stand £35ono 07724 874347

MENS BIKE 21 Gear "Diamond Back silver/black, front/back suspension, new front/back mudguards £50 (Crosby) 07940 261128

GIRLS BIKE Sunflower, suit 6-8 years with basket & stabilisers, ex condition £40 ono. Call after 5pm 0151 9240676

CHILDS BICYCLE Spiderman with stabilisers £20. Boys bicycle age 6-8 £20 01695 622307

ADULT TRICYCLE 3 wheel adult bike, blue with gears and basket £110 ono 01515268527

MOUNTAIN BIKE Mans Townsend Endurance mountain bike. Shimano18 gears, grip shift handle bar ends. Good condition. £40 01704832788

ALLOY DE-LUXE High mount 2 bike carrier. Carries bikes on rear of most hatch backs without obscuring rear number plate. £35 ono 01257 463900

MOUNTAIN BIKES ladies and girls, good condition £35 each Southport 214498

CLOTHING

LADIES BLACK Suede jacket, duffle buttons, soft lining, pockets, M&S size 16 28" long from shoulder £12 07858 462998

LADIES BOOTS Beige suede faux fur top, half zip, grip sole, size 6 brand new in box £20 07858 462998

CROSSHATCH UNISEX Fleece lined zipped hooded sweatshirt jacket, dark grey with dark red trim, medium £10 07858 462998

MENS SHIRTS 5, new £7 each. 3 Pairs trousers, new £8 each. 1 2 piece black suit, new £50. Walking jacket, as new £10 07743 701629

KICKERS School shoes size 3, never worn £25. Regatta boots size 3, worn once £10 ono. Tammy Girl shoes size 4 worn twice £10 ono 01704 643464

GENTS SHOES Chapman & Moore, brown leather brogue shoes, worn once, size 8, imac cond £40 0151 2866896

CLOTHING

LEATHER JACKET Gents 3/4 length brown leather jacket by Thomas Nash Debenhams as new rarely worn £45 01515262502

EVENING SUIT Mens, black. Waist 38" Chest 44" Leg 31" £50. Cream evening jacket. Chest 44" £35. Both items excellent condition 01704 542765

CUFF LINKS House of Fraser "The Collection". Silver/royal blue oblong shape. Boxed. Classy, suitable for a wedding or similar function. £5 07855222552/07821417560

LADIES PER UNA dress deep pink white beige and black pattern worn once for special occasion small cap sleeve size 16 £12ono 01515263851

DESIGNER WEDDING DRESS Stunning Alyce Claudine Paris Ivory fishtail sz 6-8 dry cleaned with dust bag was £1,300 now £350 ono no txt 07504685036

KATHY VANZEELAND Ladies brand new modern bag colour stone own dust bag q'sale cost £70 now £25 no txt 07504685036

NINE WEST HANDBAGS 2 brand new with labels from USA £20-10 each or 2 for £25 no txt 07504685036

MANTARAY LADIES BOOTS Brand new real leather with £90 price label sz 5 dark tan nice detail q'sale £30 no txt 07504685036

BOOTS NAIL POLISH 9 brand new bottles great colours. Cost £8 each, all for £20 unwanted gifts. No text 07504685036

FAUX FUR JACKET brand new sz 14 with price labels fox colour fully silk lined no offers £20 no txt 07504685036

LADIES SHOES Excellent condition pair black suede/leather Aldo ankle band full toe worn once size 5.5 £12 & pair brown suede/leather Clarks sandal size 6 £8 01519292083

CLOTHING Jacques Vert champagne/black trim 3/4 sleeve jacket size 14 £15 & Jacques Vert black/champagne sleeveless dress size 12 £25 worn once 01519292083

LADIES TROUSERS New Debenhams ladies trousers 2 pair medium length. Size 10 Navy. Size 10 Beige £12 for the 2. 01515269560

COMPUTING

QUICKSHOT JOYSTICK QS-201 professional analogue joystick. Brilliant for retro gaming. Very good condition. £15. 01695 578368

NETGEAR ROUTER Netgear Rangemax router DG834N £40ono 07724874347

XBOX 360 and 2 special edition games. Comes with power lead but NO CONTROLLER! Text me on 07599832990

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COMPUTING

COMPUTER CASE PC ATX tower case with GA 6BXC MoBo. Intel proc. PC100 Ram. Graphics and sound cards. CD Writer. DVD optical drive, floppy drive. No Hard Drive. £10.00 01704 546978

DIY

STEP LADDERS Wooden, vintage design A-shape, 5 steps then a platform at 4 feet (1.2m) high. Very sturdy. £20 01695 578368

SPEEDFIT CONNECTORS 1 no 500mm long 1/2" x 15mm £7, 1 no 300mm long 15mmx15mm £5 07724 874347

EXTENSION LADDERS Two lift with stand off £50. Tower scaffolding £100. Buyer collects 01704 538245

SWANN CCTV Kit with 4 cameras digital video recorder, brand new in box. Pain £380. Only £200. Bargain 07774 878154

SOCKET SET in carry case "Xtreme Challenge" 80 sockets long & short reach 3 ratchet handles 9 combo spanners Used £20 07977278724

GARDENING

ANTIQUE STONE & glazed earthenware sinks and troughs. Various sizes. Ideal as planters or features. From £30-£390. (Local deliveries possible). Parbold 01257462066

BOSCH ROTAK36LI Ergoflex cordless rotary lawnmower, 37cm cutting width, with battery, charger and instructions. Cost £332 last June. Very good condition. £250. 01704579541

GREEN GLASS Bottle (Viresa) large indoor terrarium, wide mouth complete with silk flowers £25 07858 462998

BOX PLANT sculptured plant in large pot with single standard branch 3 foot high cost £65 will accept £20 0151 5203233

BOX PLANT sculptured box large pot plant with 6 standard branches about 3 foot high cost £95 will accept £20 0151 5203233

GARDENING

POLYTHENE TUNNEL Brand new, unopened still in box. 3m x 4m approx. £80.00. Ormskirk area. Buyer collects. 07789648046

BENTS RATTAN black 1m round glass top table ,4 chairs cushions Excellent condition.Cost new £900 Accept £150 Rufford 01704 821720 07966101288

GARDEN TOOLS Used but still useable 10 different tools including spade rake loppers scythe bulb planter shovel etc £15 07977278724

HOBBIES

AEROPLANE KITS Airfix Supermarine Spitfire Mk 1A 124 mode kit, £20. Frog Vickers Vimy, 1/72nd scale mode, £10. Both ready to assemble. 077614 79792

SEKONIC LUMIDISC for light meter for L-308/308B, in bag, for camera £10 07858 462998

BENCH POWER Supply 13.8 volt Zycomm PS220, may suit CB user £10 07858 462998

10X50 BINOCULARS in mint condition, Chinon 7-degree extrawide field-of-view, complete with case and all 4 lens caps. £30. 01695 578368

JIGSAW BOARD Quality portapuzzle carry case, suitable for 1000 piece jigsaws, easy to use, very good condition £20 01704 562317

COLOURING BOOK Johanna Bamford Secret Garden gorgeous book, brand new, unused. Was £10. Bargain £5. Buyer collects. For artists & gardeners. All ages 075102 19705

CLARINET Boosey and Hawkes clarinet with hard case. £40. 01695 424360

YAMAHA CLARINET with hard carrying case plus music books. £50 01695 424360

GROLSCH BOTTLES 12 bottles in original case. Good for home brewing £10. 01695 424360

NAPOLEONIC FIGURINES Four 90mm Le CIMIER French Napoleonic metal figures. 2 Lancers, Foot grenadier & Drummer. £5 each Churchtown. 01704 620793

GOLF TROLLEY lightweight pull along £15 (Crosby) 0151 4764807

INDOOR BOWLS Four sets all different sizes. £20 per set. (Crosby) 0151 4764807

SINGER Industrial Sewing Machine in good working order £85. Also Singer Overlocker £85 or both for £150. Run John (Formby) 07449 537301

HOBBIES

BOOKS large selection of Danielle Steele, & Sophie Kinsella books hardback & paperback all immaculate condition 50p-£1 each 01704 875299

PROLOGIC FISHING Suit. Jacket and salopettes. Large. Very little use - like new with Skeetex Moonboots 9 1/2 £65.00 for both! 07773 698733

ACER GOLF Irons. 3 - sand wedge. 9 clubs. Very little use. VGC. £20.00 07773 698733

STANLEY MOBILE work centre , Hardly used . £19 Rufford 01704 821720 07966101288

22 KITCHEN CUPBOARDS solid oak wood cupboard doors only and 4 drawer fronts ready mid may. Great for kitchen refit. £100. No text 07504685036

GUITAR AMPLIFIER Line 6 Spider IV 30 Watts. Very good condition/barely used. Many effects & tone options. £150 or best offer. 07791168941

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SAMSUNG TV 40" Samsung Smart TV can be connected to the Internet. in perfect condition £200 OVNO with instruction booklet 07516540357

DVD RECORDER Panasonic, records TV programmes onto disc or remembers them and plays CD's £50 07971 280520

AMAZON ECHO Never been used, unwanted gift. Bargain £85 0151 2807372

FLOOR LAMP Black 6 foot up-lighter floor lamp with dimmer switch £25 excellent condition 07881887799

TV STAND Black smoked glass 3 shelves suitable for 36- 42 inch TV £15 07881887799

BEDSIDE CABINET light oak laminate Single draw cabinet with book storage £20 good condition 07881887799

VINYL ALBUMS selection of C & W including artists like Marti robins/charley pride/guy mitchel/red sorvine/glaser brothers/george c smith/dolly parton dottie west and others
all vinyls ex con £1 each 07821417560/07855222552

SELECTION OF 80S VINYL ALBUMS gladys knight/ruby winters/michael bolton/leo sayer/paul young/smokie/cliff richard/barry manilow and others All vinals in ex con £1 each 07821417560/07855222552

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

JVC PORTABLE CD/radio player. Silver/Navy blue, with remote control. VGC. £15 07855222552

CRT TV 28 inch screen black TV with remote. Good condition and working order. Deep back heavy type. May deliver. £28. 01704 560150

LARGE MIRROR W41" H 29" with mahogany surround.
Beautiful condition. Ideal for living room sale due to house move £50 ono 01704 875299

TV STAND Black glass,3 shelves,28ins long x 20 ins high approx ex condition £20 07708836403/01704 539039

HOUSE AND HOME

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TV CABINET Teak £50 01704 542154

KETTLER BLACK GLASS AND CHROME RECTANGULAR DINING TABLE & 8 CHAIRS Excellent condition . New £2995 Accept £500. Rufford 01704 821720 07966101288

HOUSE AND HOME

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE
medium size. 2 seater sofa plus 2 armchairs. High backed. Deep filled cushions still wrapped. Cost £1495 accept £495 07544970776 Can Deliver.

FULL WOODEN KITCHEN Inc fridge and dishwasher. £600 ono. 01695 574428

3 MODERN CHROME & GLASS ceiling lights and 3 Chrome & Glass Wall Lights with Hallogen Bulbs excellent condition cost £550 from john Lewis bargain £50 tel 07795 258213

QUILTED BEDSPREAD/THROW 61/2 ft x 5ft pink satin, M&S, beautiful condition £10 07858 462998

HANGING WARDROBE excellent condition, black, 107cm x 57cm (42" x 22.5"), carry handle, shoulder strap, detachable hanging hook. £10. 01695 578368

TOWEL RAIL Silver stainless metal, 48cm wide by 26cm projection (19" x 10 1/4"). 5 rails total. Excellent condition. Not heated. £5. 01695 578368

BOSCH FREEZER Under the counter, 3 drawers, 85hx-62dx50w Good condition £30ono 07734 960970

LOGIC TV 26" Flatscreen tv, freeview, with remote control. vgc, £30 ono 07734 960970

REPRODUCTION FIREPLACE Mahogany Fire Surround. Cast Iron Back Panel Tiles Down Each Side. Front Grille. Black Hearth. Excellent Condition. Buyer Collects £200 07751896765

KITCHEN/DINNER TABLE solid wood medium oak extendible table and 4 padded chairs good condition cost £270 will take £40 0151 5203233

HOUSE AND HOME

FIRE SURROUND Stone effect 48" w 44" h. Pale cream colour £250. Gas fire, chrome trim and fret £75. Aintree area 07796 922895

MAXIMUS Oak CD & DVD blueray media storage unit, large freestanding, as new, 20 shelves. H160.5 cm W120 cm D24cm. Still available from Argos £149.99 Bargain £65 07966 130623

RUG 155mm x 220mm beige & brown squares, good condition £15 ono 01704 834549

COFFEE TABLE mid oak finish 52" x 23" x 16". Two glass inset tops and lower shelf £35 01704 578080

KITCHEN CUPBOARDS Antique free standing with 3 drawers. 3'6"w 3'h 1'6"d £20 01704 510457

WELSH DRESSER Pine 56" wide 6ft high. Also pine corner unit £180 ono 01704 877395

RETRO CABINET 1970's £10. Kitchen Cabinet antique, free standing, 3 drawers 3'6" w 3'00" h 1'6" d £20 ono 01704 510457

SUITE Marks & Spencer 3 piece suite, cream, 2 two seater settees & one armchair, good condition £125 01695 420156

4 STOOLS Kitchen bar stools gold with black seats £85 ono 576718

TEA SET Royal Doulton Juno design, brand new in box, teapot, sugar, milk, 6 plates, cups £40 01704 533269

KENWOOD CHEF Good working order £35. Six glass sundae dishes £2. 24pc dinner service, white blue and gold. Bargain £45 01704 570374

WANTED Two cane type patio chairs, lounge type, high backs 07531374528

SETTEE Black leather look £75. Large ornate mirror, excellent condition £35. Table & chairs with cushions £40 07765 555486

SPANISH GARDEN Dinner / Teaset 55pieces £35. Heated table tray electric £15 01704 873941

COFFEE TABLE As new, white £50. Set of drawers, bedroom, black marble £80. Lamp as new standard £60. Washing machine Hoover £80 01695 356122

TUB CHAIRS 2 lime green £35 each. Excellent condition. 0151 5319453

GLITZY MIRROR Still in box, fits flat to wall, size 26" x 36" £25 07933 740677

HOUSE AND HOME

FLOOR LAMP Standing, antique slim stand, square foot plate. Dark cream shade. Excellent condition £20 07933 740677

FENDER Black hearth extending fender. Pewter Finials. Unused £20 07933 740677

FLOATING SHELVES Solid oak 7" deep 1 1/2" thick 1@3' 1@2' 1@1' 3 in total £35 07933 740677

MARBLE DINING room furniture, Table with 6 Chairs, Sideboard with Marble top and wood base and beige coloured drawers. Excellent condition. £350 (will separate). (Melling). 0151 5460350

TOSHIBA DELTAWAVE microwave black 55w x 38h x 40d cm works perfectly. No longer needed after kitchen refit. £20 (Birkdale) 01704 560518

ERCOL DINING TABLE light wood (Golden Dalon) 64in long extends to 84in. Width 14.5in. Top is perfect with some scuff marks on legs. Only £150. (Southport). 07977 344241

TWO BRASS CHANDELIERS and glass ceiling lights with five bulbs; excellent condition £30 each or £50 for both. Cost new £190 each. (Southport) 07977 344241

DE-LONGHI 3kw fan heater. Rarely used. Very clean, excellent condition. £10 07855222552

2 PALE PEACH MATCHING TABLE LAMPSHADES panelled with tassle trim (H12"). VGC. Expensive when purchased, asking £18 each. 07855222552/07821417560

OBLONG WALL mirror (52"x17") - mahogany wooden frame with carved edging/gold gilt inlay. VGC. £30 07821417560/07855222552

SOLID WOOD tall round unit - H46" Diameter 11". Has 6 small drawers for CDs, Nik-Naks or similar. Space to display ornament on the top of it. Ex con. £80 07821417560/07855222552

TABLE LAMP " blue - globe of the world" 12" circumference as new £10 07821417560

WALL MIRROR 40insx28ins. Fancy gold frame. Need space. £30ono 01704 875561

HARVEYS CHOCOLATE BROWN RUG 5FT X 4FT
£30. Brought for £168. 01695 623494

HOUSE AND HOME

2 SEATER SETTEE in terracotta. Removable washable covers, ideal for small room. Genuine reason for sale, downsizing house move. £40 01704 875299

BEDSIDE CABINET in pine, 2 draws in great condition £10 01704 875299

CHEST OF DRAWERS in cream 5 draws, inc. 2 bedside cabinets x 3 draws each in lovely condition £50 01704 875299

BENTS RATTEN black 1m glass top table with 4 chairs Grey cushions. Cost £900 accept £150 Rufford 01704 821720 07966101288

STAINLESS STEEL electric double oven small oven/grill perfect working order large oven needs repairing very clean £20 ono 01515263851

CIRCULAR OCCASIONAL table with table cloth draped to floor ideal in any room 20 inches diameter may deliver £7 ono 01515263851

CUPBOARD DOOR FRONTS 22 vgc great style kitchen door fronts only & 4 drawer fronts solid wood ready mid may quick sale. No text £100 07504685036

JML DRIBUDDY Portable clothes dryer, like new £20 07986135173

CLOTHES RAIL One boxed, brand new, one used once £18 07980 162415

MARBLE FIREPLACE Portuguese marble inset fireplace with double hearth and over shelf. Gas fire free if required £60 01704564732

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HOUSE AND HOME

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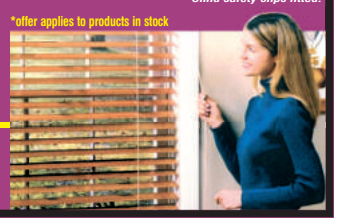
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TOOTLE RONALD

The family of the late Ronald Tootle would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many messages of condolence, cards and donations received during their recent sad loss.

Special thanks to Reverend John Sephton for his support, kindness and a caring service. Thank you also to Margaret and team at Skelmersdale Funeral Services for the help, guidance and dignified funeral arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

GARCIA STEPHEN PAUL

3rd May 2016

Suddenly aged 44

One lonely year without you Son, the saddest we have known.
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
No-one can replace you, no-one ever will.
In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still.
Your loving Mum, Dad and Sister Cecile
xxx

DEATHS

HOUGHTON JEAN

20th April 2017

Aged 68 years

Suddenly after a long illness. Loving Wife of Steve. Much loved Mum of Mark and adored Gran of Thomas.

Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral service to be held at Southport Crematorium on Friday 5th May at 12:40pm. Bright clothing welcome. Family flowers only please but, if desired, donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Tel: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

WATERWORTH EDWARD

25th April 2017

Passed away peacefully in hospital aged 81 years of Scarisbrick

Devoted Husband of Pam, much loved Dad of Jill, Helen, Lynne and Simon. Dearly loved Grandad of Jazmin, Alexander, James, Matthew, George, Sam and Rachel. Funeral Service at St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall on Thursday 4th May at 2.30pm, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired are being gratefully received in aid of Breast Cancer to the Marina Dalglish Appeal, charity number 1111193. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

KENYON DAVID JAMES

Passed away 21st April 2017 aged 76 years of Lathom

Much loved and loving Husband of Pauline. Father of Ian and Elizabeth, Brother of Barbara and Ernest. Funeral Service took place at Lathom Park Chapel on Tuesday 2nd May 2017, followed by Committal at West Lancs Crematorium. There were family flowers only by request, but donations are being gratefully received for The Alzheimer's Society and Lathom Park Chapel. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road, North, Burscough Tel: 01704 891555

RIMMER DORIS

26th April 2017

Passed away peacefully in hospital aged 94 years of Aughton

Wife of the late James Hugh Rimmer. Funeral Service at St. Cuthbert's Church, Halsall on Monday 8th May 2017 at 1:30pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for St. Cuthbert's Church. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

DILLON DR. SYLVIA

Aged 73 years

22nd April 2017

Adored wife of Geoff (deceased), much loved mum of Jo, Chris, Becca and Adam, wonderful grandma of Keziah. Hugely loved, greatly missed.

Funeral at St. Michael's Church, Aughton, on Tuesday 9th May at 11am, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Sylvia for The Woodland Trust and Alzheimer's Society via MLS.

All enquiries to MLS Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton L39 5DZ (01695 424888).

Check out **champnews.com**

DEATHS

GLOVER MARY (NEE SCOTT)

26th April 2017

Peacefully at home

Aged 95 years

Dearly loved wife of Prof. John Glover, Mother to Brian and Anne, Grandmother to Tom and Dan-Erik. Scientist, devoted golfer and lover of all things Scottish. She will be sorely missed. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 11.20am. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Red Cross gratefully received via https://www.justgiving.com/remember/444259/Mary-Glover

Further enquiries to: Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, PR8 4AG. Tel:01704 550055

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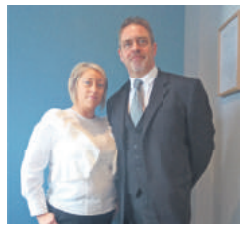
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254054	28747
26587	26879
239028	331501
135398	21852
12721	15707
373184	11832
25631	27147

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(RALPH'S WIFES LANE, BANKS. WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Ralph's Wifes Lane, Banks from Banks Road to Church Road.

2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours until 1800 hours on Monday 8th May 2017 until Saturday 3rd June 2017 or until completion of the works within this period. 3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Banks Road – (into Sefton) – A565 Water Lane (from Sefton) – Southport New Road – Guinea Hall Lane – Hoole Lane – Church Road and vice versa. The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway patching works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7365/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

TRADETEAM LTD, 3 Lumsdale Road, Cobra, Stretford, Manchester, M23 0UT is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To add an operating centre to keep 15 goods vehicles and 15 trailers at: DHL Skelmersdale, Exel Business Park, Statham Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 8DY

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at: NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT S. Cartwright & Sons Coachbuilders Ltd. trading as S. Cartwright & Sons Coachbuilders Ltd. of Alexander House, Atlantic Street, Broadheath, Altrincham WA14 5EW is applying to add an operating centre to keep 8 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at Stanford Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8ED.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SCHOOL LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle, cycle or pedestrian to proceed over that length of School Lane, Burscough from 20 metres either side of the Railway Bridge.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Sunday 7th May 2017 until 1630 hours on Sunday 7th May 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- School Lane – Carr Lane – Ring O Bells Lane – A5209 Briars Lane – Square Lane – Liverpool Road South – Liverpool Road North – School Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Bridge maintenance works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7368/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk — Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOUNDARY MEANYGATE, HESKETH BANK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Boundary Meanygate, Hesketh Bank from its junction with Boundary Lane (Becconsall) to its junction with Boundary lane (Hundred End).
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours on Monday 22nd May 2017 until 1700 hours on Sunday 13th August 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Boundary Meanygate – Boundary Lane – Moss Lane – Taylors Meanygate – Boundary Lane (Hundred End) – Boundary Meanygate and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7256/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk — Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(GORSE LANE, TARLETON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Gorse Lane, Tarleton from outside a property called New Haven for approximately 20 metres. 2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 until 1700 hours on Tuesday 9th May 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Gorse Lane – Sutton Lane – Blackgate Lane – Southport New Road – Moss Hey Lane – Legh Lane – Gorse Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out. Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/6918/WH]

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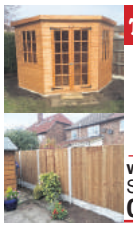
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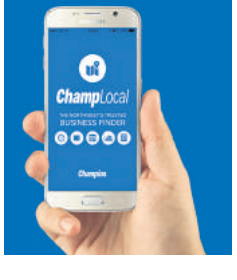

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Skoda put substance ahead of style with its Yeti

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

IN A WORLD of Jukes, Capturs and Mokkas the Karoq is a good thing; a proper, evocative car name of the old school. Not only is it drawn from the language of a remote Alaskan tribe but you can just imagine it being slapped across a supercar's rump. A Maserati Karoq has a certain ring to it.

But this name isn't going on some Italian slingshot; it's going on Skoda's new baby off-roader, which looks great and should sell like Ed Sheeran tickets when it goes on sale here later this year. I've no doubt it'll be an accomplished all-rounder (especially if its Kodiaq big brother is anything to go by) but it means Skoda's existing baby off-roader, the Yeti, will be quietly put down.

Which is a real shame because I still reckon it's one of the most talented tiny off-roaders out there. In fact, it's one of the best motoring all-rounders, full stop.

I remember road-testing it for the *Champion* in 2010, not long after it first arrived in the UK, and thinking how willfully different it was from the rest of the Qashqai-alikes out there. It eschewed trendy styling and clever in-car infotainment for slab-sided proportions and minimal overhangs for better ground clearance – just like you get on a Land Rover Discovery. It even had the same sort of chunky buttons and indestructible interior plastics as most off-roaders, so that even the clumsiest of schoolchildren or the hungriest of Labradors wouldn't be able to ruin it.

But best of all it had that rare thing missing from so many of today's off-roader-esque family cars; the prowess to match the proposition. One of the cars we occasionally use at *Classic Car Weekly* for photoshoots is a 13-reg Yeti, and no matter what we throw in its direction it always emerges totally unflummoxed. On one jaunt back from the Goodwood Festival of Speed we actually took it green laning to avoid the traffic jams and it dealt with the muddy ruts and rocks superbly – and as a result, it was faster than every Ferrari, Porsche and M-badged BMW within a ten-mile radius.

For a five-door hatchback that kicks in at a shade under 18 grand it is supremely talented, and definitely something that even in its twilight years I'd thoroughly recommend. I can only hope the new arrival picks up the Yeti's baton of being something you can count upon in a muddy field, rather than following the me-too route of looks over all else.

It does at least have a cool name, though, which is a good start.

David Simister is editor of Classic Car Weekly

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CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

VAUXHALL

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2014 (64) MERCEDES-BENZ 2.1 E220 BLUETEC AMG 2DR AUTO, black, full leather, sat nav, 25k, FSH

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2016 (16) MERCEDES-BENZ A-CLASS 1.6 A180 SE 5DR, met blue, AMG alloys, 4k only, balance of manufacturers warranty

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2015 (64) BMW X5 XDRIVE 4.0D M SPORT 5DR AUTO, grey, pan sunroof, carbon pack, every extra £44,999
2012 (62) LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SDV6 AUTO 5DR, black, 50k, black alloys, side steps, Bluetooth, DAB ..£23,995
2016 (16) HONDA CRV 1.6 DTEC 5DR, met grey, 4k only, alloys, balance of manufacturers warranty £17,995
2016 (66) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 VISIA 5DR, red, delivery miles £10,995
2015 (65) RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE NAV TECH TCE DIESEL, two tone, alloys, 4k only £9,995
2013 (63) NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI DIESEL 5DR, black, 39K, alloys £7,995

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2014 (14) AUDI A8 3.0 TDI AUTO, 54k, FSH, full specification – call for details £24,995
2015 (15) MERCEDES-BENZ CLA AMG COUPE AUTO DIESEL, silver, full specification £22,695
2014 (14) AUDI Q5 TDI S-LINE 6spd, leather, alloys, white £19,995
2015 (15) JAGUAR XF 2.2 DIESEL LUXURY, metallic blue, leather, alloys £17,995
2015 (65) BMW 320 DIESEL SE AUTO, met silver, full black leather, 27k, balance of manufacturers warranty £16,995
2015 (64) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 SV GT AUTO DIESEL, black, 22k, nav, full leather £14,995
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2002 (62) MERCEDES-BENZ C180 AMG SPORT AUTO, metallic graphite, 48k £14,995
2014 (14) AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S LINE 5DR, FSH £13,995
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2012 (12) VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN 2.0 TDi, 7 seats, 66k, FSH £10,995
2010 (10) BMW 330 M SPORT HIGH LINE COUPE AUTO, metallic £10,995
2008 (58) AUDI A5 2.0 TDI SPORT AUTO, 50k, red, leather, superb £10,995
2014 (64) AUDI A3 1.3 TDI SPORT 3DR, metallic, alloys, 59k £10,995
2014 (14) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 GT TDI DIESEL 2DR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, black, alloys £10,995
2013 (13) AUDI A1 1.2 FSI SPORT 3DR, 24k, black, alloys £10,995
2008 (08) AUDI A5 2.7 TDI COUPE AUTO, leather, s-line alloys, private plate £10,995
2013 (13) AUDI A1 1.2 TFSI SPORT 3DR, black, 21k, FSH £10,995
2014 (14) BMW 114D 5DR SPORT DIESEL, black, alloys, 45k, new model £10,795
2011 (11) BMW 325 M SPORT ESTATE AUTO, silver, leather, FSH £10,695
2012 (12) BMW 318D M SPORT, 6spd, white full black leather, FSH £9,995
2013 (63) VOLVO V40 DIESEL, 54K, climate control, Bluetooth ..... choice from £8,995
2008 (08) MERCEDES-BENZ C220 CDI AUTO, metallic, 79k, FSH, facelift model £5,995
2012 (12) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI, silver, 68k, alloys £6,995
2011 (61) NISSAN JUKE ACENTA, metallic, alloys £5,995
2012 (12) MINI ONE 1.6, red, 49k, full service history, chrome pack, ambient pack, alloys, lady owner £5,799
2012 (62) ALPHA ROMEO 1.2 JTM MITO DIESEL, red, superb, 54k, FSH £4,995

AUTOS

2007 (07) DAIHATSU TERIOS AUTO 5DR, metallic, 32k £2,995

2015 (15) MERCEDES-BENZ CLA AMG COUPE AUTO DIESEL, silver, full specification

£22,695

2015 (64) BMW X5 XDRIVE 4.0D M SPORT 5DR AUTO, grey, pan sunroof, carbon pack, every extra

£44,999

2013 (13) AUDI TT 1.8 FSI CONVERTIBLE, white, 32k, FSH

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2014 (14) HONDA JAZZ 1.4 ES PLUS, urban titanium, low mileage **£8,250**
2015 (15) PEUGEOT 108 1.2 ALLURE, metallic blue, alloys, parking camera, 3,000 miles **£7,495**
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2014 (14) NISSAN NOTE 1.2 ACENTA, metallic red, alloys, air con, 9,000 miles **£7,495**
2013 (13) PEUGEOT 308 ESTATE 1.6 HDI ACCESS, silver, 15,000 miles, air con **£7,195**
2014 (63) NISSAN NOTE 1.2 ACENTA PREMIUM DIG-S, metallic grey, 31,000 miles **£6,995**
2017 (17) KIA PICANTO 1, 5 DOOR, white, air con, 1,000 miles only **£6,995**
2017 (17) KIA PICANTO 1, 5 DOOR, air con, Bluetooth, white, 1,000 miles only **£6,995**
2012 (12) CITROEN DS3 1.6, 3 DOOR, white, alloys, air con, low mileage **£6,495**
2010 (10) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 XE, silver, alloys, air con, 22,000 miles only **£5,995**
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 CLUB AUTO, metallic black, low mileage **£3,195**
2014 (14) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 ACENTA, nightshade metallic, 12,000 miles only ..... **SOLD**
2015 (15) PEUGEOT 2008 1.6 HDI ALLURE, metallic grey, 8,000 miles, alloys, air con ..... **SOLD**
2014 (14) FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC, 5 DOOR, metallic grey, very low mileage ..... **SOLD**
2014 (14) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 ACENTA, smart vision, blade silver, low mileage ..... **DUE**
2012 (62) FORD FOCUS ST3 2.0 TURBO, 5 DOOR, spirit blue, leather, 1 owner, low mileage ..... **DUE**
2014 (64) MERCEDES E250 SE CDI AUTO, metallic blue, grey leather, sat nav, low miles ..... **DUE**

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Volvo's biggest seller

VOLVO has announced the latest version of its biggest seller will start at £37,205 when it goes on sale here in the autumn.

The new XC60 will have four-wheel-drive and an eight-speed automatic gearbox as standard throughout the range, and while engines will initially be limited to two turbodiesels and a petrol unit, there'll also be a petrol-electric hybrid version towards the end of the year.

Jaguar's newest F-type is released

JAGUAR has shaved £2,500 off what it takes to buy a new F-Type by fitting it with a smaller engine similar to the one you'll find in its saloon.

The 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine has 40bhp less than the V6 model, but thanks to a turbocharger it's only a tenth of a second slower to 60mph.

It'll cost £49,900, and will be available to order later this spring.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (1/100km) Ford car range: urban 53.3 - 35.3 (5.3 - 8.0), extra urban 76.4 - 60.1 (3.7 - 4.7), combined 65.7 - 47.9 (4.3 - 5.9). Official CO2 emission 99.0 - 136.0g/km. *Terms and conditions apply.

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CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions: 373 – 89g/km.#
*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R, Corsa Diamond, ADAM JAM, Corsavan and Combo. £500 Free Fuel is not given in cash.
Offer available on eligible, selected new vehicle orders from 28 April – 7 May 2017 and registered by 31 May 2017. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent or contact your local Retailer for details. General Motors UK Limited t/a Vauxhall Motors reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time.

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62 Bmw 116 Diesel 5 Dr
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62 Mini One
Cooper Alloys, Rear Privacy Glass

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13 Nissan Note Automatic N Tech
1 Owner, 44000 Miles, Sat Nav.

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ONLY **£6977** SAVE **£1018**

12 Volvo S60 1.6 D2 R Design
57000 Miles, 1/2 Leather Seats, Alloys

£44 A WEEK

ONLY **£9990** SAVE **£1005**

61 BMW 116 Diesel 5 Dr
Alloys, FSH, Air Con, CD player

£39 A WEEK

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Reg	Model	Was	Now	Save
13	Peugeot Partner Tepee 1.6 Diesel, 1 Owner,Fsh,47000 Miles,Alloys, In Grey.	£8495	£7677	£818
61	Volvo S60 1.6 Diesel Se 4 Door,Leather,Sat Nav,58000 Miles,Alloys, In Black.	£9695	£8977	£718
60	Audi A1 Tdi Sport 3 Door, 19000 Miles,Fsh,Upgraded Alloys,A Stunner, In Red.	£9995	£9495	£500
62	Bmw 116 Diesel 5 Door,64000 Miles,Fsh,New 18" Alloys,Privacy Glass, In White.	£11995	£10990	£1005
13	Mecedes B180 Cdi Sport,Leather,Alloys,Privacy Glass,57000 Miles , In Black.	£12495	£11977	£518
12	Nissan Qashqai Dci 7 Seater, 1 Owner,38000 Miles,Fsh,Panoramic Roof, In White.	£12995	£11980	£1015
61	Kia Sportage 2.0 Crdi Kx2, ½ Leather,Alloys,Pan Roof,56000 Miles, In White.	£12995	£10990	£2005
13	Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Se Technick 4 Door,1 Owner,Fsh,Leather,Sat Nav, In Silver.	£12995	£11977	£1018
12	Mercedes B200 Cdti Sport Automatic, Leather,Alloys,43000 Miles, In Blue.	£13495	£12977	£518
15	Mini Countryman Diesel Automatic 5 Door, 1 Owner,6000 Miles,Alloys, In White.	£15995	£14490	£1505
12	Volvo Xc60 2.4 Diesel R Design Auto, Leather,Sat Nav,32000 Miles,Fsh, In White.	£21995	£18990	£3005
13	Audi A8 3.0 Tdi Quattro Sport Executive Auto, Fully Loaded,Fsh, In Grey.	£24995	£21990	£3005

Reg	Model	Cash Price	Per Week
09	Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 Cdti Automatic,7 Seater,Air Con ,Cd Player , In Grey.	£4995	£19.21
61	Vw Golf 1.6 Tdi Bluemotion 5 Door,Alloys,Air Con,Cd Player, In Silver.	£6995	£28.83
59	Nissan Qashqai Dci, 50000 Miles,Alloys,Air Con,Cd Player, In Grey.	£6995	£28.83
15	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 5 Door, 1 Owner, 17000 Miles,Air Con, in White.	£7995	£33.00
09	Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec, 59000 Miles,Upgraded Alloys,Privacy Glass, In Black.	£7995	£33.63
63	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Sri Estate, 1 Owner,Fsh,Alloys,Air Con, In Black.	£8495	£36.04
11	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 Dci, 62000 Miles,Alloys,Air Con,Cd Player, In Grey.	£8695	£36.52
63	Honda Civic 1.6 Cdti Tech Se 5 Door, 1 Owner,44000 Miles,Fsh,Alloys, In Grey.	£8995	£38.44
63	Ford Grand C Max Tdci Zetec, 7 Seater, 1 Owner,56000 Miles,Fsh, In Silver.	£9995	£43.25
62	Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti Exclusive,29000 Miles,1/2 Leather,Alloys, In Black.	£9995	£43.25
11	Bmw 320 D M Sport Auto, 4 Doore,Leather,Msport Alloys, Fsh, In Blue.	£10495	£45.65
63	Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Cdti Sri, 7 Seater, 1 Owner,55000 Miles,Fsh,Alloys, In Black.	£10495	£45.65
62	Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec, Alloys,Privacy Glass,Air Con,Cd Player, in Black.	£10995	£48.00
10	Audi Tt 2.0 Fsi Auto,Leather, Sat Nav,Alloys,Air Con, in Blue.	£10995	£48.00
14	Bmw 316 D 4 Door, 1 Owner,51000 Miles, Alloys,Cd Player, in Black.	£11990	
13	Jaguar Xf 2.2 Diesel Luxury,Automatic,Leather,Fsh,Sat Nav, In Red.	£15995	

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65 FORD C-MAX 1.6 TDCI ZETEC, deep impact blue metallic, alloys, A/C, CD/radio, £30 tax ..... **great value at £9,699**
15 FORD ECOSPORT 1.5 DCI TITANIUM X, crystal white, full leather interior, A/C, CD, alloys etc, 9,000 miles only **£11,999**
15 FORD C-MAX ZETEC 1.6 TDCI, moondust silver or panther black, alloys, A/C, full elec pack, £30 tax ..... **only £8,999**
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14 JAGUAR XF 2.2 LUXURY AUTO, Oxford blue metallic, ivory leather trim, sat nav, Bluetooth, full electric pack ..... **a stunning car for only £15,999**
62 LANDROVER FREELANDER II 2.2 XS AUTO, santorini black, black leather, sat nav, privacy glass, 52,000 miles, full history & stunning condition ..... **only £15,499**
58 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 HSE, silver, full leather interior, heated seats, sat nav, panoramic roof etc ..... **only £10,999**

14 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T ACENTA PREMIUM (new shape), crystal white, sat nav, panoramic roof, alloys, 28,000 miles only, stunning car for only **£12,999**
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14 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 EXCITE 3DR, glacier white, remote locking, CD/radio, USB, 18,000 miles, £20 road tax **£5,499**
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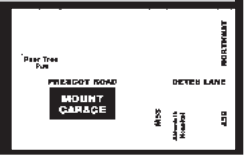

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Burscough clinch a 34-run victory over Skelmersdale

IN the Liverpool Competition First Division Burscough had a 34-run win at Skelmersdale.

The visitors put 129 up on the board with Chris Andrews (28) top scoring, whilst Andrew Pickavance 4-40 and Rob Cobley 3-37 shone with the ball. In reply, the hosts were bowled out for 95 with Ben Van Niekirk taking 4-17

Fleetwood Hesketh enjoyed a thrilling one-wicket win at Hightown St Mary's.

The hosts' skipper Jim Kelly hit 63 in his side's 180, with Owen Drummond taking 3-45.

In reply, Lee Bolton (74) led the way for the visitors, whilst Jack Wrigglesworth (31) and Derek Sykes (29) chipped in with valuable runs as Fleetwood clinched victory on 181-9, with Paul Jones taking 4-52.

In the Second Division Southport Trinity's Hayden McCrae continued his amazing start to the season with an unbeaten 128 (21 x 4s & 1x6) in his side's seven-wicket victory at Parkfield Liscard.

The hosts put 202 up on the board with Grant Hughes falling one short of his century (99), whilst Liam Simms 4-40 and Will March 3-21 took the bowling honours. In reply, Bobby Eyes (52*) and McCrae helped Trinity to victory on 204-3.

Ormskirk happy to send S&B to Room 101

THERE were plenty of centurions on show in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition last weekend, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

There were no centuries for Ormsirk but they still hammered Southport & Birkdale by 101 runs.

The hosts' total of 228-9 dec was built around 79 from Josh Bohannon and 59 from Nick Caunce, with Andy Warhurst taking 3-46.

In reply, only Chris Brownlow (55) and Adam Phillips (34) offered much resistance with the bat as S&B were bowled out for 127, with Scott Lees 3-17 and Bohannon 3-45 taking the bulk of the wickets.

Northern had a thrilling 11-run home win over Wallasey.

Chris Laker hit a century (118) for the hosts and skipper James Cole 61 as they declared on 221-4 with Matthew Keogh taking 4-74.

In reply, Chris Davies hit a century (100 inc 13x4 & 3x6) for Wallasey who were dismissed for 210, with Tom Sephton taking 5-60.

Formby suffered a six-wicket defeat at New Brighton.

James Seward (45) and Sam Oldham (33) top scored as the visitors were bowled out for 122, with Dave While 5-24 and Ashraf Nawab 3-22 doing most of the damage with the ball.

Bootle had a 98-run home win over defending champions Leigh.

The hosts posted 231 up on the board, thanks in the main to Jackson Knight (97), Danny Davies (44) and Mike Farrell (43), with Adam Shallcross taking 4-12.

In reply, Lancashire's Karl Brown hit 63 as the visitors were dismissed for 133, with Chris Liptrot 5-63 and Will Purser 3-25 in fine form with the ball.

Ross Higham (100* 13x4 & 1x6) and Dave Atkinson (93) helped Rainhill to 260-4 dec at home against Ainsdale.

In reply, Akshay Darekar took 8-25 as the visitors were dismissed for 127 with Mal Swift scoring 38.

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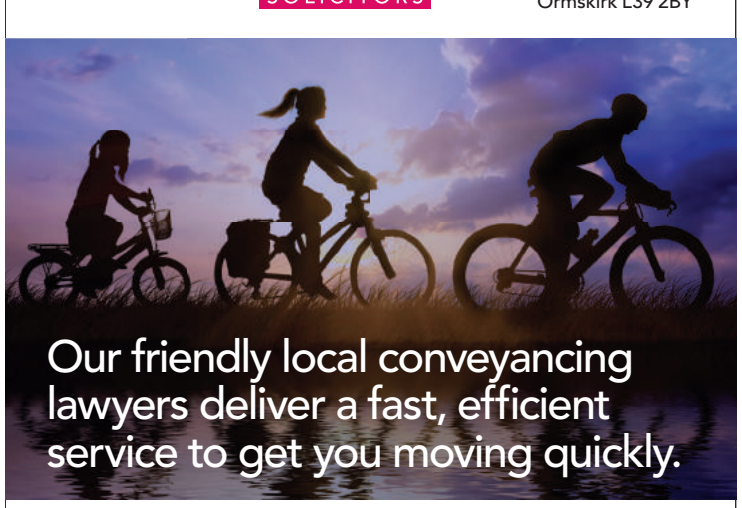

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Skem supporters will be glad to see back of season

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SUPPORTERS of Skelmersdale are probably glad to see the back of the 2016/17 season.

The team finished bottom of the Evo-Stik Premier Division with just 24 points from 46 matches and next season will compete in Division One North.

It is understood that money was a bit tight at the club. Former manager Tommy Lawson was reported as having trouble getting his pre-season signing targets.

Skelmersdale had a bad month in October, their only league success was a memorable one though, 4-0 at home to promotion-chasing Warrington Town.

Skelmersdale manager Tommy brought Tony Sullivan in as his assistant manager at the end of October and things looked more positive at the Uretek Stadium.

Skelmersdale beat Ilkeston 2-1 and got a 1-1 draw at Grantham, being denied a late winner by a highly debatable referee's decision.

Early in December Skelmersdale were desperately unlucky not to win away to then league leaders Buxton, having to settle for a 0-0 draw.

December also brought the announcement that Tommy Lawson's playing budget was to be massively cut, but the long-serving manager still fielded a competitive team at Marine on Boxing Day and Skem brought home a point from a thrilling 3-3 draw.

On Friday, January 27 it was the end of an era at Skelmersdale United, manager Tommy Lawson was sacked after around 11 years at the helm.

Many would argue it was a hugely controversial decision, many would argue it wasn't, but it was certainly a move that brought a large amount of public criticism aimed at the Skelmersdale board. Time will tell who was right.

New Skelmersdale manager Alan Rogers was a former FA Premier League star and he brought a number of new players in to join the young squad that was previously assembled and their battling performances brought a creditable 1-0 win at Workington at the end of February.

A youthful Skem side struggled in the final games of the season, but will start again in August.

One certainty is that it will be another interesting nine months in the local football mill.

Linnets prepare for life in North West Counties League

BURSCOUGH fans will be hoping for better luck next season as they begin a new journey in the North-West Counties Premier Division.

The Linnets endured a difficult campaign, finishing bottom of the Evo-Stik Division One North with 24 points from 42 matches and as a result will not compete in a league they were promoted from in 1998.

It is understood that money was a bit tight at the club. At Victoria Park, a new manager Dave Powell had taken over from Mark Beasley who had parted company with the club in somewhat controversial circumstances after taking them to the promotion play-offs in 2015/16.

The side struggled for league success in August but Burscough did manage an FA Cup victory away to North-East Counties side Parkgate.

It was late September when Burscough exited the FA Cup at Handsworth Parramore, but still there was no league success to boast about, a situation that carried on through October.

At Victoria Park there was a celebration, the Linnets beating Tadcaster Albion 2-1, but only 75 people were there to watch the match.

In December, Burscough didn't pick up a single point and there was a change of manager - Dave Powell leaving and being replaced by Keith McCann.

Keith McCann was doing a good job at Burscough and during January his new side won twice, beating Scarborough Athletic and Brighouse Town at a rather sparsely populated Victoria Park.

Burscough promised, but really they had no chance of rescuing themselves after such a poor start to the season.

March saw them pull off a magnificent surprise 3-2 victory at Glossop North End, but by the end of the month relegation was firmly on the cards.

In April, Burscough managed to concede 21 goals in five league games as relegation was rubber-stamped.

Burscough start again in August, and one certainty is that it will be another interesting nine months.

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